

Top team to mastermind Tory future

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday looked forward to a third Conservative term of office by establishing an inner group of senior ministers charged with overseeing the preparation of the general election manifesto and drawing up policies to be followed by a Tory government into the next century.

Mr Tebbit, whom it had been expected would be in charge of the preliminary work on the manifesto. Party sources said the aim of the group was to bring together ministers representing the main departments of state and the party in the Lords, Commons and the country.

and it is on the manifesto-preparing side of its work that most attention will be focused. It was being said last night that the group's formation should not be seen as marking the start of the next election campaign.



Mrs Rosemarie Marcie-Riviere: reputation vindicated.

Reagan in Gorbachov peace plea

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan, in an important speech at the site of the 1967 Summit between President Johnson and the Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, yesterday invited Mr Mikhail Gorbachov to join him in taking "action in the name of peace."

£15,000 to socialite who sued

By Robin Young

Mrs Rosemarie Marcie-Riviere, the wealthy Swiss-born socialite who sued Mr Taki Theodoropoulos, the society columnist, for libel, collapsed in the High Court yesterday after tensely waiting nearly five and half hours to learn that she had won, and been awarded £15,000 damages.

Employers call for Pretoria talks on arrests

South African businessmen asked for an urgent meeting with the Minister of Law and Order to voice concern over arrests of union leaders.

South African business leaders have asked for an urgent meeting with the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, to express concern about the arrests of trade union leaders under the emergency regulations in force since June 12.

Phone bills up for home users

By Teresa Poole

British Telecommunications will this year have to cut overall charges for telephone line rentals and inland calls. But domestic users could face increased telephone bills because the price reductions will be concentrated on long-distance calls which mostly benefits business users.

The Government has refused to give the identity of the number of people being held under the emergency, and it is an offence to name detainees without clearance by the authorities.

Tory split likely over sanctions

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The right wing of the Conservative Party told the Prime Minister last night that it could not accept the imposition of any economic sanctions or measures against South Africa, and urged her to enter into direct talks with the Pretoria regime.

Tomorrow England expects

World Cup climax: Stuart Jones previews Sunday's clash between England and Argentina in Mexico City

Portfolio Gold

Three readers shared yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition prize of £8,000 - double the usual amount as there was no winner the previous day.

Patients wait

Patients with potentially life-threatening conditions are having to wait weeks or months to see a consultant surgeon, the Royal College of Surgeons said.

Kremlin drive

The Kremlin began a sweeping drive against bribery and corruption, including the threat of labour camp imprisonment for those convicted of making a false income declaration.

Libya protest

The Irish Republic has made a formal protest to Colonel Gaddafi over reports that Libya intends to renew financial support for the Provisional IRA.

'Rule of law' call in council reforms

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Local government must be freed from a mesh of legal doubt that has led to abuses of power, the Widdicombe committee into council behaviour said in its final report yesterday.

Grade makes number two at BBC

Mr Michael Grade has been promoted to director of programmes, BBC Television, it was announced yesterday. The post is the second highest in the corporation's television hierarchy and covers both networks.

Coluche dead in motorcycle accident

Paris - Coluche, France's best-known comedian and originator of last winter's highly successful "Restaurants du Coeur" for the poor, was killed when a motorcycle he was riding crashed into a lorry at Oppio, near Grasse, in the south of France (Diana Giddes writes). He was 41 years old.

Rugby votes to keep the co-eds out

Tom Brown's sister may have to bite her tongue for another century. Yesterday the governors of Rugby School turned down the opportunity of becoming the first of Britain's top public schools fully to open its doors to girls.

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Falklands fear in Cup clash

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Both the British and Argentine ambassadors to Mexico have called on the Mexican police to take special measures to prevent violence at Sunday's England - Argentina World Cup quarter final match, which newspapers here have already dubbed The War of the Falklands.

Halifax Instant Xtra advertisement with interest rate charts and application form.

Table with 2 columns: News/Events and Page numbers.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Reforms call aimed at influence of party politics within councils

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The control of local authorities by the main political parties has led the Widdicombe Committee to recommend sweeping changes in the way councils are run.

The aim is to strengthen local democracy, taking account of the intensification in party politics, the committee said. The best practices found on some councils should also be brought in nationwide.

The five-member inquiry, headed by Mr David Widdicombe, found there were big differences in the running of councils throughout Britain, and emphasized that, in spite of the changes it wanted, the present system had many strengths.

The committee's unanimous 314-page report disclosed there had been abuses in some councils because the present law did not take account of party politics. It also found that most electors did not like this growing influence.

At worst, politics was a malign influence which led to a dividing of the spoils by a particular party, but more commonly they created tensions and uncertainties about the legal framework of local government.

To give minority parties more rights, the report urged the adoption of parliamentary-style question times and discussions of business chosen by minority councillors.

Committees, which could take decisions on behalf of the whole council, should reflect the political make-up of the whole council, it said. It also wanted a change in standing orders to require the public gallery to be cleared in the event of any disturbance.

The report stated: "We have been concerned to hear of disturbances at meetings of councils, especially in some London boroughs, and in some cases this appears to have amounted to intimidation.

"It is important that there should be no suspicion of connivance by the chair in such disturbances and accord-

Election curb on senior staff

One of Widdicombe's 88 recommendations is that local authority employees at the rank of principal officer and above should be barred from seeking election in neighbouring authorities (Mark Dowd writes).

If that proposal reaches the statute book, it is likely to disappoint those who had sought to restrict the opportunities for political appointments by insisting on a ban on all authority employees, irrespective of rank, from pursuing political careers in adjacent council areas.

Press officers, chief librarians, chief environmental health officers and trading standards officers are examples of posts at the higher levels in local authorities.

There are about 70,000 principal officers constituting 3 per cent of the local authority workforce. Their starting salary is about £11,280 a year.

Unless legislation is made retrospective, it is unlikely that people occupying principal posts in one authority and elected office in an adjacent council will be forced to choose between political careers and their jobs.

ingly that there should be a duty on the chairman to bring them to a halt."

It came out against co-opting non-councillors on to committees and especially against such advisers having the right to vote. A further review was needed, it added, of role of teachers on education committees.

Councillors should be required to declare on oath their acceptance of the national code of local government, the report said.

The code should also make clear that councillors must act within the law and that sectional loyalties, as well as private gain, could create conflicts with their public duty.

Greater openness about party political groups and their discussions would ensure that unnecessary suspicions were avoided. Party groups should not meet in a hole-and-corner atmosphere, it said.

A law should be brought in requiring councillors to register all their interests which could affect their conduct or influence their actions. A councillor who declares an interest in a discussion must withdraw from the room.

The report wanted the public and press to have the right to attend meetings and see documents only where the committees could take decisions on behalf of the council.

The present law, it said, did not allow committees to delegate functions to their chairmen or to individual councillors. It should be changed to allow urgent decisions to be delegated, subject to the agreement of the chief executive.

The inquiry examined the role of chief executives and urged them to be given legal powers to make sure council business was conducted fairly, its recommendations would also increase the powers of the Ombudsman and the Audit Commission.

After looking at the various ways of electing councillors it came out in favour of whole councils being re-elected every four years. The difference in size between councils led the inquiry to urge a review.

It called for a more even system of allowances paid to councillors, ranging between £1,500 to £4,000, depending on the size of the council.

The report described the state of local government and found that the traditional image of a councillor as "white, middle-aged, white collared and male" was slowly changing. But 81 per cent of councillors were still male and only 4 per cent were unemployed.

The Conduct of Local Authority Business (Stationery Office, £12.50).

Leading article, page 13

Tories councillors may back strike

By Nicholas Beeston

The dismissal of a right-wing librarian by a Labour-controlled borough could lead to a strike supported by Conservative councillors.

Lewisham Borough Council in south London last week dismissed Mr Malcolm Skeggs, aged 45, for being a racist when it became known that he had run four times as a National Front candidate between 1970 and 1979.

Mr Skeggs, a member of the British National Party, worked as a librarian for 24 years at the Lewisham library, but was dismissed immediately with three months' salary.

Mr Skeggs's union, Nupe, and three of the four other unions represented at Lewisham town hall have threatened to take industrial action unless he is reinstated. Only Nalga has said it welcomed the dismissal.

A spokesman for Nupe said: "We detest his views, but we

feel the manner in which he has been dismissed is outrageous."

The Conservative opposition is backing the strike call as long as it is confined to the town hall.

Mr David Green, the Conservative group leader, said: "Council officials have warned that Mr Skeggs will almost certainly be reinstated if the matter is taken to the industrial tribunal and that he would probably be offered up to £20,000 compensation."

Mr Skeggs said: "Mr case is in the hands of the union, all I want is my job back. He declined to comment on the allegations that he was a racist.

But a spokesman for the council said Mr Skeggs' "racist views" were incompatible with good race relations in the borough.

The council and Nupe are meeting next week.

Challenge on 'absent' GLC cash

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The use of some of the "absent millions" signed away in the last hours of the Greater London Council is to be challenged in court. But the London Residuary Body, which will bring the case, said yesterday that it would go to court over only £45 million of the £78 million involved.

The money is at the heart of the argument about whether the expiring GLC had the right to award itself any sort of "life after death".

The remaining £33 million will be left with the London borough councils to which the GLC sent it before being abolished at the end of March.

The residuary body, which was created to wind up the GLC's affairs, said yesterday that it might have been able to recover the £33 million. But action to win it back from the boroughs would disrupt contracts already under way.

All of the £78 million, which was signed away in the final working hours of the GLC on the Thursday before Easter, was destined to renovate and improve council homes it transferred to the boroughs years ago.

The residuary body said yesterday that it had been advised that it had good legal grounds for challenging the signing away of the £45 million on which contract work in the boroughs has not begun.

Two questions will have to be decided in court:

- Had the GLC the right to hand over money to a third party to make sure that it did not fall into the hands of the residuary body at the moment when the council was abolished at the end of March?
- Had the council the right to earmark the money for work in only 14 of the 32 London boroughs instead of all of them?

Lords rule on forged drug prescriptions

Chemists who dispense controlled drugs on forged prescriptions are liable to prosecution for unlawful supplying even if they are unaware of the forgery, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

The Law Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal by Storkwain Ltd, a London pharmacy company, against the rejection by two judges in the High Court of their claim that chemists were not guilty of an offence unless it was shown that they had dispensed a controlled drug knowing that a forgery had taken place.

Storkwain's appeal was the

final round in a legal battle which started in February, 1984 when the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain brought charges against it of selling controlled medicines to two people from its premises in Edgware Road, Paddington, on forged prescriptions.

The charges were dismissed by the magistrates' court, but the court was directed later by the judges to convict the company.

Lord Goff of Chieveley and four other Law Lords yesterday upheld that decision and dismissed Storkwain's appeal.

Law Report, page 21



Mr John Gaines, who is selling "The Education of Achilles" by Delacroix (above left) and the rare Weimar sheet by Leonardo da Vinci in the autumn.

Rare Leonardo to be sold

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A collection of Old Master drawings owned by a Kentucky horse breeder is expected to create a sensation when it is offered for sale by Sotheby's in the autumn.

John Ryan Gaines, whose forthcoming sale was announced yesterday, set himself the task of "encompassing the whole history of Western art" when he began buying drawings in 1972. His acquisitions embrace the most famous names in four centuries of European painting and are valued at about £18 million.

They start with one of the

two last drawings by Leonardo left in private hands, the Weimar sheet of a "Child with lamb", move on to two figure studies by Raphael, and Carpaccio's "Sermons of St Martin", before moving into the High Renaissance with Parmigianino's "Virgin and Child".

The collection cuts a swathe through the following centuries with drawings by Carracci, Veronese, Canaletto and Tiepolo.

There are four drawings by Rembrandt, including both a figure subject, "The beheading

of St John the Baptist", and a landscape.

There are two landscapes by Claude and a delightfully fresh Watteau sheet of "Three studies of a child's head".

The nineteenth century leads off with Delacroix and Ingres, acknowledges the realist movement with Millet and Daubier, before celebrating the Impressionist genius of Degas and Turner.

Forming the collection was "not only an aesthetic experience but an educational experience", Mr Gaines, aged 57, said yesterday.

TV's own goals in Mexico

By Alan Hamilton

Television viewers who do not find themselves turned on by World Cup football in spite of England's new-found sparkle, face the danger of a repetition on Sunday of the disaster on Wednesday night, when both BBC 1 and ITV broadcast simultaneously the England game against Paraguay.

Yesterday the BBC declined a suggestion from the IBA that the two channels should toss a coin to decide who should transmit Sunday night's vital match between England and Argentina. An ITV spokesman claimed that by screening the Paraguay game, the BBC had broken a gentleman's agreement made last January to share World Cup coverage.

Representatives of the two sides will meet today to discuss who should transmit Sunday night's game, but neither is likely to give up willingly the chance to capture a large audience. Both channels receive identical pictures from Mexican television, and the differences are only in the commentaries and the intermittent post-mortems.

The IBA said in a statement yesterday that Wednesday's simultaneous transmission was "against the public interest and contrary to the spirit of the understanding between the UK broadcasters which the BBC had previously accepted to toss a coin had been rejected. The IBA said it would continue to seek agreement.

The BBC won the toss to screen England's first-round matches against Poland and Portugal, while the IBA showed the Morocco game.

According to ITV the agreement was that they, the losers, should then screen exclusively the second round qualifying game, but the BBC denied any agreement, and transmitted the Paraguay match as well.

Unofficially, the BBC indicated that it had every intention of screening Sunday night's Argentina match, whatever ITV did. One thing is certain, whether England is in it or not, both channels intend to screen the final.

World Cup reports, pages 28 and 30.

RUC inquiry

Stalker report status doubt

By Richard Ford

The status of the report by Mr John Stalker into allegations that the RUC operated a shoot-to-kill policy was a final one.

Government spokesmen in Belfast and Dublin confirmed that that was so only hours after the RUC heard it was interim. It is understood that Sir Barry Shaw, the DPP, also believes the report to be incomplete.

The latest development added mystery to a controversy that is deeply troubling the British and Irish governments and causing concern throughout the RUC at a time when it is facing renewed "loyalist" violence on the streets.

The governments of Britain and the Irish Republic insist that the report submitted by

Mr Stalker to the RUC's chief constable last September was a final one.

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Dublin rebuke for Gadaffi

By Richard Ford

The Irish Republic yesterday formally protested to Colonel Gadaffi over reports that Libya intends renewing financial support to the Provisional IRA.

Mr Eamon Kennedy, the republic's ambassador in Rome, who delivered the rebuke at the Libyan People's Bureau, has been ordered by Dublin to make an urgent visit to Tripoli to outline the death, terror and suffering caused by the terrorists throughout Ireland.

He will demand assurances from Colonel Gadaffi that his Government will not encourage the Provisionals or have contacts with them because

such moves would be considered unfriendly by the coalition Government led by Dr Garret FitzGerald.

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that any government supporting the activities of the Provisionals was behaving in an unfriendly manner.

He had made that clear to Libya in the past and he emphasized that the Irish Government rejected attempts to promote political objectives by violence or the threat of violence.

The Provisionals' political wing, Provisional Sinn Fein, has denied being financed from Libya.

NUM urged to sue for peace with rebels

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers were urged yesterday by union delegates to give the highest priority to making peace with the rebel Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Reunification with the breakaway Nottinghamshire men was an essential factor in protecting the coal industry, avoiding a serious split within the TUC and electing a Labour government, Scottish miners were told.

Miners' delegates, at their

annual conference in Perth, called "on those who have left the union to return to the fold for their own benefit and for the wellbeing of all miners and their families".

The resolution was the second olive branch to be offered to the UDM in two days. On Wednesday, Mr Mick McGahy, the NUM vice-president, said he would leave "no stone unturned" in an attempt to reunite the mining unions.

Yesterday, Mr George Bolton, the Scottish miners' vice-president, said the creation of the UDM had led the way to attacks on pension schemes, the conciliation process and pay rises.

Mass defections from the UDM would not be achieved "by telling them they can come back in if they get down on bonded knees. We will only create the conditions for getting them back if we argue that it is in their interests and ours to do so.

Mr Willie Clark, Scottish miners' executive member, issued a warning that a future Labour government would collapse if it tried to introduce an incomes policy.

The conference voted to maintain opposition to any incomes policy and called for "substantial" increases at the next round of pay talks.

Strikes or picketing dubbed Stone Age

The role of the strike weapon in industrial relations should be reassessed, the Institute of Directors said yesterday.

Mr Graham Mather, head of the policy unit, said: "The weapons of the strike and the picket belong to an industrial Stone Age which Britain is quickly leaving behind."

He said: "Physically to stand at a plant approach, dwarfed by modern container lorries, accompanied by traditional placards and banners, is today either a meaningless gesture or a cover for the use or threat of intimidation and violence."

However, he admitted that strikes may at one time have brought a useful or even necessary flexibility to employment relationships.

"But the time has come seriously to examine whether we expect the strike weapon to survive, to any significant extent, the changing patterns of the real economy and of new employment relationships."

He said that workers should be entitled to a regular update in the terms and conditions of work. It was remarkable that for millions of workers their contract of employment was "a shadowy document, frequently long out of date."

He said that was surprising "at a time when progressive employers wish to encourage flexible working patterns, fixed-term contracts, performance-related pay and working hours and arrangements that meet individual needs."

He called on union leaders to refashion their organizations for the new British economy.

"Whilst statute will continue to provide a framework for the agreements, frequently individually negotiated, which will govern these employment relationships, they will more than ever before reflect individual choice."

Maxwell's offer for games in Edinburgh

Directors of the Commonwealth Games, which opens in Edinburgh in five weeks, were last night considering an offer by Mr Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher, to avoid a cash crisis (Ronald Faux writes).

The games were heading for a possible shortfall of £1.5 million although Mr Maxwell's financial advisers put this at closer to £5 million.

The news came after two days of talks in London. Under the agreement it was understood Mr Maxwell had agreed to underwrite any losses on the games.

Life sentence

Leonard Grange, aged 54, a former caretaker at Glastonbury Primary School, Mordey, south London, was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for murdering Sarah Morris, aged nine. The judge recommended that he should serve at least 20 years.

Name cleared

Mr Marryn Lodge, aged 30, a former police sergeant, of Coakerell, Close, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset, who lost his career and his wife because of a shoplifting conviction, was cleared in the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Double fine

Lorne Thyssen, aged 23, of west Kensington, London, was fined £150 by Bow Street magistrates yesterday for drink driving for the second day in succession and was banned from driving for a year. On Wednesday he was fined by Marlborough Street magistrates.

VDU award

Miss Lesley Bradley, aged 32, a secretary, of Buraage, Manchester, who lost her job after refusing to work on VDU machines because she feared radiation could affect her chances of getting pregnant, was awarded £8,271 compensation by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Island award

Fair Isle, situated between Orkney and Shetland, was presented with the Council of Europe diploma in Edinburgh yesterday in recognition of its scenic beauty, cultural traditions and for being a key staging post for migratory birds.

MPs' TV call

A group of MPs of all parties launched a campaign yesterday for the televising of Commons' select committees. A Commons vote in November ruled out any hope of cameras entering the chamber during this Parliament.

Druids banned

The Secular Order of Druids failed yesterday in a eleventh-hour plea in the Court of Appeal to be allowed to celebrate the summer solstice at Stonehenge tomorrow.

Correction

A headline and report in some editions yesterday should have made clear that the numbers of blacks and whites in prison were expressed as proportions of their numbers in the population as a whole.

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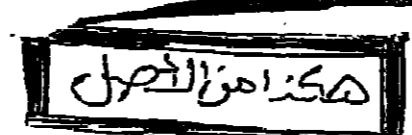
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Patients whose lives may be at risk 'wait weeks to see surgeon'

By Nicholas Thomas, Social Services Correspondent

Patients with potentially life-threatening conditions were having to wait weeks or even months to see a consultant surgeon, the Royal College of Surgeons said yesterday.

That took an account of the fact that there was a waiting list of 500,000 for surgery.

"It must be unacceptable that an elderly man with urinary symptoms has to wait 17 weeks, in the worst districts, to discover whether he has a cancerous or benign condition, while even in the better provided districts he still has to wait 11 weeks," the college said in a survey of waiting times for out-patient appointments.

Cases clearly classified as urgent were dealt with satisfactorily, with half the surgeons seeing patients for their first hospital appointment within five days and less than a quarter unable to see patients within a week, but the

With the wait for an operation added to the wait for an out-patient appointment, half the surgeons said that they could admit non-urgent cases within 12 weeks of the family doctor's referring them, but for a quarter the delay was six months.

The figures "reveal a deplorable situation and reflect serious deficiencies in the NHS", the college said.

The college produced the figures as part of a study arguing that more consultant surgeons were needed.

The United Kingdom has about 1,400 general, paediatric and urological surgeons, but comes bottom of an international table of the number of consultants a head of population.

Yet Britain had more than 30 senior registrars, fully trained to be consultant surgeons, who could not get consultant posts because of financial restrictions, the college said.

Sir Geoffrey Slaney, president of the royal college, said that delays mattered because patients with symptoms suggesting fairly routine conditions, such as a gall bladder problem, might, on detailed examination, prove to have cancer.

"If you have an acute abdominal condition the service is very good," Sir Geoffrey said. "But if you have abdominal pains you don't know how urgent that is. It might be cancer of the colon. That ought to be urgent."

Health cash increases 'offset by pay rises'

Hospitals were deteriorating and worn-out equipment could not be replaced in spite of repeated government claims of increased health service funding, a conference was told yesterday.

The problems arose because the Government was not covering the cost of pay increases to health workers, resulting in the diversion of money intended for patient care, Mrs Irene Casey told the National Association of Health Authorities' annual meeting at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion calling on the Government to fund fully all nationally agreed pay increases. But it asked that cash for hospital and community health services should include specific money for growth.

Mrs Candy, a member of the Southampton and South West Hampshire health authority, said adjustments for pay rises meant the increase in resources for hospital and community services had been virtually nil since 1982.

She accused the Government of misleading the public by underfunding pay and giving the false impression that the lack of growth was due to mismanagement.

The switch to general management in the health service had saved about £150 million, Mr Arthur Taylor, chairman of the association, told the conference.

Hospital staff who carried out dental treatment on mentally handicapped patients without proper consent were criticized yesterday by the public health watchdog.

Mr Anthony Barrowclough, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Health Service, reported that a girl aged 13 had her entire top set of teeth removed while her mother thought she was in hospital for an examination. The same day, a mentally handicapped man had eight teeth removed, without proper consent from his mother.

Operation shipshape for Nelson

By Patricia Clough

Admiral Horatio Nelson is being given a wash and brush up this week, on his column in Trafalgar Square.

The man entrusted with the task is Mr Reg Dosell, of Haslow, Essex, who scales the 170ft column and 17ft statue using ladders strapped to one side, watched by crowds of tourists.

The main problem is to brush and then scour off the encrusted pigeon lime, which, if left to accumulate too long, will wash down the sides of the monument, leaving white streaks, he says.

Mr Dosell, with his brother Terry and two others, started work on Tuesday and expects to be finished early next week. Their firm has the task of smartening up the Admiral every two years.

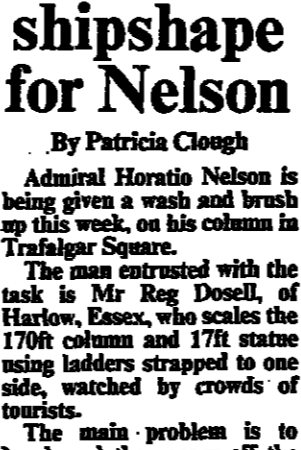
The column, in Devon granite, was designed by William Railton and the statue sculpted by Edward Hodges Baily. It was erected between 1839 and 1842.

The bronze lions around the base are by Landseer.

John Manning, of The Times photographic staff, took the opportunity to climb the column for a rare close-up of Nelson. Although no mountaineer, he felt neither afraid nor dizzy, he said. "They told me not to look up or down but just keep on climbing."



Mr Reg Dosell giving Nelson's hat a vigorous brushing while (below) the photographer, John Manning, negotiates the ladders to capture the operation in close-up yesterday.



The most difficult bit was negotiating the plinth that is standing on because the ladder goes out on an overhang - you are leaning backwards and there is nothing below you."

He took the photographs at arm's length from Nelson's face, using a 16mm wide-angle lens on his Nikon camera, and an exposure time of 1/500th second at F11.

Marking differences found in A levels

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A comparative study of A-level examination results in English has found differences between boards, with some apparently more lenient and others more severe. But it says the differences do not mean a difference in standards.

According to a statistical survey carried out in 1984 the Oxford and Cambridge, the Associated Examining and the Southern Universities' Joint boards appeared relatively generous to students, passing more of them and giving them results of up to one grade better than other boards.

Conversely, the Joint Matriculation, London and Oxford boards seemed tougher on their students.

Further analysis through a scrutiny of scripts, however, showed the differences to be very small, according to the report of the Inter-board Comparability Study of Grading Standards in A-level English, published today.

The study, which was prompted by correspondence in The Times Educational Supplement after the 1983 examination results, found that grading schemes applied in very different ways, with grade widths being substantially different and the placing of the grade scale on the mark scale varying considerably between boards.

AEB, for example, allocated a band of five marks to a grade B in English, whereas London gave it a span of 11 marks.

That will change next year when a new A-level grading scheme is introduced, forcing the boards to operate a more uniform grading scheme.

AEB has many more candidates from further education than any other board, and almost none from independent schools. By contrast, the Oxford and Cambridge Board's entry is almost entirely drawn from independent schools.

For eight of the boards the ratio of female to male candidates is three to one; that for Oxford and Cambridge is about one to three. Female students outnumber male students by up to 8 per cent.

A survey of local education authorities in England and Wales, carried out by the Social Democratic Party, indicates that the new GCSE examination for 16-year-olds is being introduced without proper funding or preparation.

Mrs Anne Sofer, the SDP's education spokesman, said it demonstrated the "lack of government provision for what will certainly be an important step in secondary education".

Satirist turns discreet in defeat

By Robin Young

Mr Peter Theodoropoulos, Taki of the "High Life" column in The Spectator, was unwontedly discreet when it was finally announced that he had lost in the 12-day High Court libel action yesterday. He was not there.

Until then Taki, tanned and smiling, had been cheerfully thumbing his nose at acquaintances in the press gallery, and holding court in the corridors while the jury continued their 5 hours and 20 minutes of deliberation.

In the course of the hearing Taki had claimed to be a columnist in the English tradition of Defoe, Swift and Cobbett. He said that, like them, he used strong language when he felt strongly. "My gossip will define the age," he said in one of the bouts of braggadocio.

It was the freedom of the press that was being challenged, he claimed, when a wealthy socialite sued him for libel over the words he chose to describe her and her husband after being refused admission to a lunch party at their Greek villa.

The spicy strength of Taki's language had top libel lawyers beating through rival dictionaries in court to find definitions of words like "hostile" and "cantanite" that would suit their purposes.

Taki is the son of a Greek millionaire, John Theodoropoulos, whose fortune derives from oil, shipping and textiles.

Taki is a black belt at karate, a former Davis Cup tennis player, and the estranged husband of Princess Alexandra Schoenberg, who nobly gave evidence on his behalf, and received a friendly pat on the bottom from him in thanks as she left the court.

His column excoriated the rich and tasteless, yet he whiled away his leisure time at Annabel's in London, and Martini's in New York.

He made no secret of his vigorous pursuit of what he called "aristocratic crumpet", and for some time rented a country house at a reported £40,000 a year to advance this interest. At the same time he wrote openly of his ambition to dine with the Queen.

The closest he has come to the Queen's hospitality was in 1984 when he was sentenced to a four-month prison sentence for attempting to smuggle cocaine into Britain.

He succeeded in bouncing back from that blow and, though it will hurt his pride to have lost to a woman whom he had accused of throwing him out "like a dog", friends do not doubt that he will bounce back again.

Computer the winner at chess

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Hitech, an American computer supported by military funds, has defeated Dr Jana Miles, England's only woman grandmaster.

The computer amazed experts by winning its match 2-0 in a contest played over Tuesday and Wednesday at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, and is the first to defeat a grandmaster under tournament conditions.

The match was conceived partly to test Hitech and partly to raise funds for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in which Dr Miles works.

Dr Hans Berliner, who helped to program Hitech at Carnegie-Mellon University, said that the computer could analyse 175,000 moves a second. He claimed that it would be among the top 50 players in the United States by the end of next year.

Below is Hitech's second victory which clinched the match score 2-0 in its favour.

Foreign and Colonial, an investment company, has stepped in with £20,000 to save the annual Hastings Chess Congress for another year. Hastings council will provide the rest.

White: Dr Jana Miles, Black: Hitech Computer

1 P-02	K-02	2 P-04	K-04
2 P-03	K-03	3 P-05	K-05
3 P-04	K-04	4 P-06	K-06
4 P-05	K-05	5 P-07	K-07
5 P-06	K-06	6 P-08	K-08
6 P-07	K-07	7 P-09	K-09
7 P-08	K-08	8 P-10	K-10
8 P-09	K-09	9 P-11	K-11
9 P-10	K-10	10 P-12	K-12
10 P-11	K-11	11 P-13	K-13
11 P-12	K-12	12 P-14	K-14
12 P-13	K-13	13 P-15	K-15
13 P-14	K-14	14 P-16	K-16
14 P-15	K-15	15 P-17	K-17
15 P-16	K-16	16 P-18	K-18
16 P-17	K-17	17 P-19	K-19
17 P-18	K-18	18 P-20	K-20
18 P-19	K-19	19 P-21	K-21
19 P-20	K-20	20 P-22	K-22
20 P-21	K-21	21 P-23	K-23
21 P-22	K-22	22 P-24	K-24
22 P-23	K-23	23 P-25	K-25
23 P-24	K-24	24 P-26	K-26
24 P-25	K-25	25 P-27	K-27
25 P-26	K-26	26 P-28	K-28
26 P-27	K-27	27 P-29	K-29
27 P-28	K-28	28 P-30	K-30
28 P-29	K-29	29 P-31	K-31
29 P-30	K-30	30 P-32	K-32
30 P-31	K-31	31 P-33	K-33
31 P-32	K-32	32 P-34	K-34
32 P-33	K-33	33 P-35	K-35
33 P-34	K-34	34 P-36	K-36
34 P-35	K-35	35 P-37	K-37
35 P-36	K-36	36 P-38	K-38
36 P-37	K-37	37 P-39	K-39
37 P-38	K-38	38 P-40	K-40
38 P-39	K-39	39 P-41	K-41
39 P-40	K-40	40 P-42	K-42
40 P-41	K-41	41 P-43	K-43
41 P-42	K-42	42 P-44	K-44
42 P-43	K-43	43 P-45	K-45
43 P-44	K-44	44 P-46	K-46
44 P-45	K-45	45 P-47	K-47
45 P-46	K-46	46 P-48	K-48
46 P-47	K-47	47 P-49	K-49
47 P-48	K-48	48 P-50	K-50
48 P-49	K-49	49 P-51	K-51
49 P-50	K-50	50 P-52	K-52
50 P-51	K-51	51 P-53	K-53
51 P-52	K-52	52 P-54	K-54
52 P-53	K-53	53 P-55	K-55
53 P-54	K-54	54 P-56	K-56
54 P-55	K-55	55 P-57	K-57
55 P-56	K-56	56 P-58	K-58
56 P-57	K-57	57 P-59	K-59
57 P-58	K-58	58 P-60	K-60
58 P-59	K-59	59 P-61	K-61
59 P-60	K-60	60 P-62	K-62
60 P-61	K-61	61 P-63	K-63
61 P-62	K-62	62 P-64	K-64
62 P-63	K-63	63 P-65	K-65
63 P-64	K-64	64 P-66	K-66
64 P-65	K-65	65 P-67	K-67
65 P-66	K-66	66 P-68	K-68
66 P-67	K-67	67 P-69	K-69
67 P-68	K-68	68 P-70	K-70
68 P-69	K-69	69 P-71	K-71
69 P-70	K-70	70 P-72	K-72
70 P-71	K-71	71 P-73	K-73
71 P-72	K-72	72 P-74	K-74
72 P-73	K-73	73 P-75	K-75
73 P-74	K-74	74 P-76	K-76
74 P-75	K-75	75 P-77	K-77
75 P-76	K-76	76 P-78	K-78
76 P-77	K-77	77 P-79	K-79
77 P-78	K-78	78 P-80	K-80
78 P-79	K-79	79 P-81	K-81
79 P-80	K-80	80 P-82	K-82
80 P-81	K-81	81 P-83	K-83
81 P-82	K-82	82 P-84	K-84
82 P-83	K-83	83 P-85	K-85
83 P-84	K-84	84 P-86	K-86
84 P-85	K-85	85 P-87	K-87
85 P-86	K-86	86 P-88	K-88
86 P-87	K-87	87 P-89	K-89
87 P-88	K-88	88 P-90	K-90
88 P-89	K-89	89 P-91	K-91
89 P-90	K-90	90 P-92	K-92
90 P-91	K-91	91 P-93	K-93
91 P-92	K-92	92 P-94	K-94
92 P-93	K-93	93 P-95	K-95
93 P-94	K-94	94 P-96	K-96
94 P-95	K-95	95 P-97	K-97
95 P-96	K-96	96 P-98	K-98
96 P-97	K-97	97 P-99	K-99
97 P-98	K-98	98 P-100	K-100
98 P-99	K-99	99 P-101	K-101
99 P-100	K-100	100 P-102	K-102
100 P-101	K-101	101 P-103	K-103
101 P-102	K-102	102 P-104	K-104
102 P-103	K-103	103 P-105	K-105
103 P-104	K-104	104 P-106	K-106
104 P-105	K-105	105 P-107	K-107
105 P-106	K-106	106 P-108	K-108
106 P-107	K-107	107 P-109	K-109
107 P-108	K-108	108 P-110	K-110
108 P-109	K-109	109 P-111	K-111
109 P-110	K-110	110 P-112	K-112
110 P-111	K-111	111 P-113	K-113
111 P-112	K-112	112 P-114	K-114
112 P-113	K-113	113 P-115	K-115
113 P-114	K-114	114 P-116	K-116
114 P-115	K-115	115 P-117	K-117
115 P-116	K-116	116 P-118	K-118
116 P-117	K-117	117 P-119	K-119
117 P-118	K-118	118 P-120	K-120
118 P-119	K-119	119 P-121	K-121
119 P-120	K-120	120 P-122	K-122
120 P-121	K-121	121 P-123	K-123
121 P-122	K-122	122 P-124	K-124
122 P-123	K-123	123 P-125	K-125
123 P-124	K-124	124 P-126	K-126
124 P-125	K-125	125 P-127	K-127
125 P-126	K-126	126 P-128	K-128
126 P-127	K-127	127 P-129	K-129
127 P-128	K-128	128 P-130	K-130
128 P-129	K-129	129 P-131	K-131
129 P-130	K-130	130 P-132	K-132
130 P-131	K-131	131 P-133	K-133
131 P-132	K-132	132 P-134	K-134
132 P-133	K-133	133 P-135	K-135
133 P-134	K-134	134 P-136	K-136
134 P-135	K-135	135 P-137	K-137
135 P-136	K-136	136 P-138	K-138
136 P-137	K-137	137 P-139	K-139
137 P-138	K-138	138 P-140	K-140
138 P-139	K-139	139 P-141	K-141
139 P-140	K-140	140 P-142	K-142
140 P-141	K-141	141 P-143	K-143
141 P-142	K-142	142 P-144	K-144
142 P-143	K-143	143 P-145	K-145
143 P-144	K-144	144 P-146	K-146
144 P-145	K-145	145 P-147	K-147
145 P-146	K-146	146 P-148	K-148
146 P-147	K-147	147 P-149	K-149
147 P-148	K-148	148 P-150	K-150
148 P-149	K-149	149 P-151	K-151
149 P-150	K-150	150 P-152	K-152
150 P-151	K-151	151 P-153	K-153
151 P-152	K-152	152 P-154	K-154
152 P-153	K-153	153 P-155	K-155
153 P-154	K-154	154 P-156	K-156
154 P-155	K-155	155 P-157	K-157
155 P-156	K-156	156 P-158	K-158
156 P-157	K-157	157 P-159	K-159
157 P-158	K-158	158 P-160	K-160
158 P-159	K-159	159 P-161	K-161
159 P-160	K-160	160 P-162	K-162
160 P-161	K-161	161 P-163	K-163
161 P-162	K-162	162 P-164	K-164
162 P-163	K-163	163 P-165	K-165
163 P-164	K-164	164 P-166	K-166
164 P-165	K-165	165 P-167	K-167
165 P-166	K-166	166 P-168	K-168
166 P-167	K-167	167 P-169	K-169
167 P-168	K-168	168 P-170	K-170
168 P-169	K-169	169 P-171	K-171
169 P-170	K-170	170 P-172	K-172
170 P-171	K-171	171 P-173	K-173
171 P-172	K-172	172 P-174	K-174
172 P-173	K-173	173 P-175	K-175
173 P-174	K-174	174 P-176	K-176
174 P-175	K-175	175 P-177	K-177
175 P-176	K-176	176 P-178	K-178
176 P-177	K-177	177 P-179	K-179
177 P-178	K-178	178 P-180	K-180
178 P-179	K-179	179 P-181	K-181
179 P-180	K-180	180 P-182	K-182
180 P-181	K-181	181 P-183	K-183
181 P-182	K-182	182 P-184	K-184
182 P-183	K-183	183 P-185	K-185
183 P-184	K-184	184 P-186	K-186
184 P-185	K-185	185 P-187	K-187
185 P-186	K-186	186 P-188	K-188
186 P-187	K-187	187 P-189	K-189
187 P-188	K-188	188 P-190	K-190
188 P-189	K-189	189 P-191	K-191
189 P-190	K-190	190 P-192	K-192
190 P-191	K-191	191 P-193	K-193
191 P-192	K-192	192 P-194	K-194
192 P-193	K-193	193 P-195	K-195
193 P-194	K-194	194 P-196	K-196
194 P-195	K-195	195 P-197	K-197
195 P-196	K-196	196 P-198	K-198

Lawyers caution Lords against conveyancing 'by all and sundry'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Government proposals to allow conveyancing by banks, building societies, estate agents and virtually any commercial organization or individual could drive solicitors from the house transfer market, the Law Society says.

In a strongly worded briefing paper to peers for the second reading of the Building Societies Bill, the society attacks the proposals as a threat to the independence of the profession.

"In no other country in the Western world are lawyers permitted to be employed by or subordinated to commercial interests," it says. Once lawyers could be employed by commercial organizations, their independence, and that of their legal advice, would be gone.

The paper also says: "Once commercial organizations have secured a foothold in the supply of solicitors' services, how long will it be before they wish to expand to cover all legal services, including those of barristers?"

The Bill, which has already passed through the Commons, proposes to allow conveyancing services by a wide range of institutions as well as sole practitioners, subject to safeguards on conflicts of interest.

The Government has already brought in laws to permit non-solicitor licensed conveyancers, who must take certain qualifications, to do the work.

It also undertook to extend the right to other institutions with a view to stimulating competition and forcing a cut in fees.

But, the society says, conveyancing fees charged by solicitors have dropped by 30 per cent in the face of government policy to end the conveyancing monopoly.

Competition has taken a firm hold, advertising is "clearly here to stay" and the house buyer has benefited from the drop in fees.

There was no reason for the Government to legislate further other than to fulfil the "unwise commitment" given to Mr Austin Mitchell, MP, two years ago when he, without his widely supported House Buyer's Bill to break the conveyancing monopoly.

The society says that the financial institutions do not want to offer cheaper, better services to the public; they are now "highly competitive and aggressive" and the aim of owning an estate agency-conveyancing department would

Shinwell portrait will help charity

By Brian Collett

A portrait of Lord Shinwell, painted after a sitting just six days before he died, will indirectly benefit charity. The artist, Mr Waldron West, is to give his £1,500 fee to the appeal fund at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Members of the Commons and House of Lords, many of whom attended a memorial service yesterday for Lord Shinwell, are contributing to the fee. The Royal Marsden specializes in the treatment of cancer.

Mr West, aged 82, of East Crinstead, West Sussex, said: "I painted Lord Shinwell sitting on a chair that is like a throne because he was a king in his own way. But I made his hand look as though it could quite easily give you a left hook. That's how I saw the character of the man."

At the memorial service at Westminster, Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Prime Minister, said that Lord Shinwell, who died last month aged 91, was "a respected political adversary and valued friend".

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that Lord Shinwell "was always a fighter who never picked on someone smaller than himself, but always took great care to pick on someone bigger than himself".

Memorial service, page 14



The artist Mr Waldron West working on his portrait of Lord Shinwell (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Postal voting used to rig elections in Northern Ireland

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Political extremists have been forcing elderly voters in Northern Ireland to hand over their postal ballot papers in attempts to rig local council elections.

The latest abuse of the polling system may have swung some closely fought elections in favour of the extremists, Mr Pat Bradley, chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland, disclosed in his 1985-86 report to Parliament yesterday.

The electoral law was changed last year to prevent the impersonation of electors. But that had led to a big increase in postal voting.

Mr Bradley said it was difficult to identify those guilty of intimidating postal voters, let alone convicting them. He emphasized that the play was not confined to any one factor.

He said that those involved obtained a list of postal voters and followed postmen.

While the elderly were especially in need of help in operating the postal vote system, they were also "more susceptible to intimidation. Identification requirements to stop impersonation have been introduced. In the weeks before the last elections the Northern Ireland Central Services were asked to supply 50,000 medical cards — one of the documents accepted.

"While there was controversy over the effect of the requirement on the electorate, it did have an effect on the actual, or perceived, level of impersonation", Mr Bradley said.

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, 1985-86 (Stationery Office, £1.90).

21st century's villages

Two new villages to house about 22,000 people are featured in county council plans for Cambridgeshire to the year 2000.

Existing towns will have to be expanded, too, to cope with the predicted population of 700,000 by the beginning of the next century, an increase of 70,000 on today's figure.

according to projections.

Most of the developments will be in the poorer north of the county to encourage jobs.

The proposed new villages will be beside the A10 in Waterbeach, which will cater for a population of 15,000, and alongside the A504 at Swavesey, where 7,000 people will be housed.

Cambridge choice for observatory

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, is to be moved to Cambridge University, in spite of a vigorous campaign by scientists to prevent the closure and sale of the Sussex site.

Sir Bill Mitchell, chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, which manages the site, made the announcement yesterday that Cambridge had been chosen from a shortlist to rehouse the observatory's administration, archives and workshops.

The National Maritime Museum is being offered the continued operation of a number of telescopes at Herstmonceux, known as the Equatorial Group, and a public exhibition of astronomical equipment.

An option would be retained to use the Equatorial Group for testing instruments before being shipped to the new Northern Hemisphere Observatory, in La Palma, in the Canaries, where modern £30 million telescopes are coming into service.

Although the submission from Cambridge was recommended on Wednesday at a research council meeting, the case for the move has to be prepared formally for approval by the Department of Education and Science and the Treasury.

Before the transfer takes place new buildings will be needed. Negotiations have begun with Sir Sam Edwards, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, over a location.

The council said that the financial details were not complete. But Wednesday's decision took account of conflicting submissions by interested groups, including the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, staff from Herstmonceux, trades union representation and individuals.

The proposed move reflects a big change over the past few years of the observatory's role.

The emphasis has shifted from providing national public services such as the *Nautical Almanac* and time signals, and from work on independent research programmes at Herstmonceux, to that of a technical support team allowing all university astronomy departments to have a share in the largest modern telescopes.

About 80 per cent of the work of Herstmonceux staff is connected with operating the La Palma telescopes for academic astronomers in Britain. At any time, more than 50 of the 180 staff from Sussex work at the Northern Hemisphere Observatory.

If approved, Herstmonceux would close about 1990.

Science report

Computer insight into 'Mona Lisa'

By A Special Correspondent

The tricks of computer science, known as image enhancement, that brought the rings of Uranus and the nucleus of Halley's comet in vivid detail on to television screens, are being used to give art historians a better look at the legacies of the great masters.

Techniques for peering beneath a painting's surface are showing preliminary sketches in the development, for instance, of the grace and beauty of flowing garments.

In particular, a method referred to as "penetrating illumination" reveals the hidden layers of paint from which analysis have gathered new insights into the working habits and the individual styles of great artists.

Among some surprises, one group of analysts concluded that the "Mona Lisa" was once adorned with a necklace. Apparently it was painted out, most probably by the artist, Leonardo da Vinci.

In addition, a hidden string of pearl beads, the computer-processed images show previously hidden traces of mountainous scenery in the background.

Dr John Asmus, a physicist at the University of California in San Diego and a specialist in the use of computer image processing of satellite pictures, suggested its extension to works of art.

So a colour image of the painting was converted into digital form, suitable for computer processing, by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where the radio transmissions from interplanetary spacecraft are first received for conversion into images.

When the "Mona Lisa" was converted into a digital code, computer analyses filtered out the individual colours one at a time, as if the scientists were electronically removing heavy varnish.

The work was done by two computer experts, Mr Ralph Bernstein and Mr Jitendra Dave, at the IBM Scientific Centre in Palo Alto.

Officials at the Museum of the Louvre in Paris, where the "Mona Lisa" hangs, are astonished at the report.

M Christian Lahner, a specialist in the scientific examination of paintings there, said the report from California had prompted plans to expose the painting to infra-red scanning.

That should show whether it has been altered and whether Leonardo first sketched the figure in black, as done by many artists.

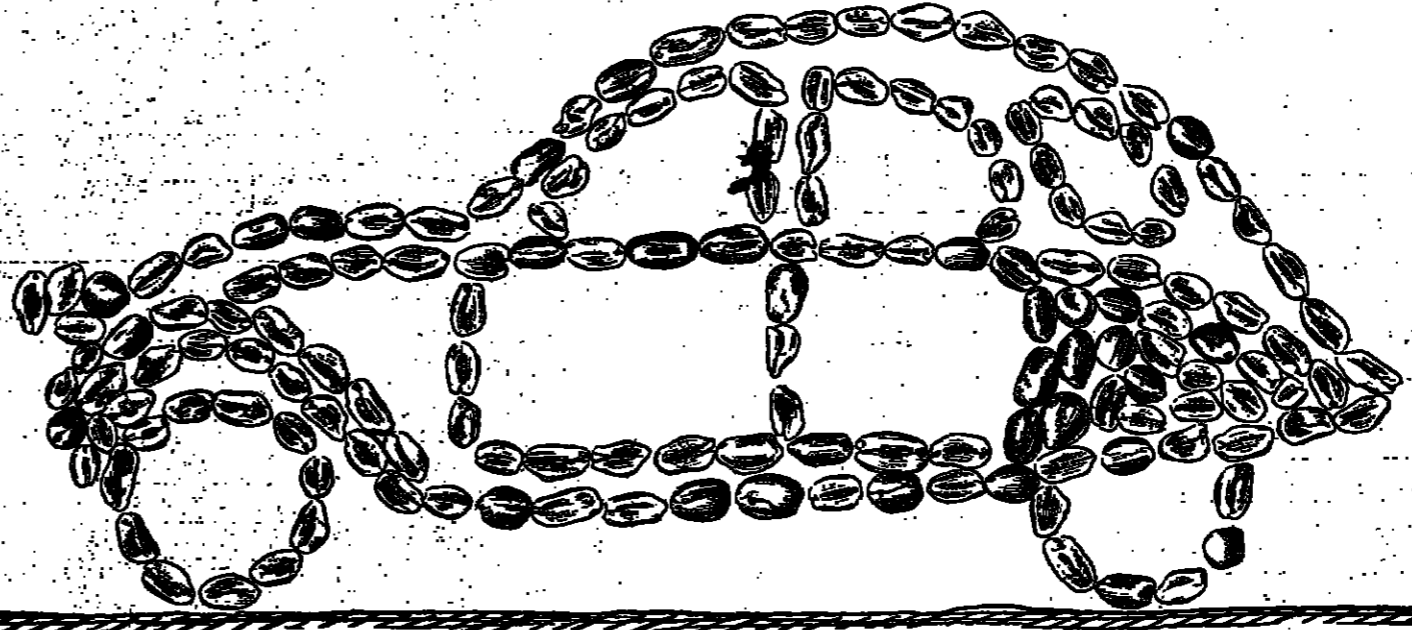
The combined use of infra-red and computer processing is under development by art historians at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to look below the surface of such works as Van Gogh's "Annunciation", painted four and a half centuries ago.

In that case a computer was used to piece together an infra-red image showing a sketchy charcoal, or some other carbon-containing material hidden beneath the coloured paint.

While helping historians to trace the evolution of individual styles and schools in art, the process will perhaps be called on to help in settling arguments over the authenticity of a painting.

The paintings, by Gerard David of Bruges, for example, were sketched in two separate stages. In black chalk he drew a rough outline of less important parts of the painting.

Then in brushed ink he produced a detailed design that was meticulously followed in the final painting. In other cases, the great masters appear to have had assistants whose roles are not clear.



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The South African crisis

Reagan defiant over big House vote for all-out trade embargo

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The White House surprised by the vote in the House of Representatives for the severing of all economic ties with South Africa...

unrealistic. Bill in the expectation that it would never be passed by the Republican-controlled Senate...

The next confrontation is expected next week when, fresh from the Paris UN conference on sanctions...

But leading Democrats said the vote, calling for a trade embargo and complete divestment by US companies...

All these measures are included in the Dellums version, but this also calls on US companies to pull out of the country within 180 days...

In Wednesday's Security Council debate, 12 countries voted for sanctions to punish South Africa for the raid on Angolan ships...

Mr Ronald Dellums, a black California Democrat and author of the measure, said: "What we did is going to give a tremendous boost to the momentum of the anti-apartheid movement."

Mr Thomas, Tip O'Neill, the Speaker, said: "The House has condemned apartheid in the strongest possible terms."

Despite the British and US vetoes, the two countries were harsh in their condemnation of the Angolan raid...



Mr Tambo speaking in Geneva yesterday.

Tambo call for union support

From Alan McGeogary, Geneva

A call to the world trade union movement to use its power to bring all trade with South Africa to a halt...

Mr Tambo said the only way the international community could prevent Pretoria from resorting to further violence was by imposing meaningful sanctions...

6,000 vote for white water only

Port Elizabeth (Reuters) - White residents in this leading eastern Cape coastal centre have voted against opening their beaches to all races...

The city's council announced yesterday that more than 6,000 whites voted against a council decision to open the city's beaches to all races...

The far-right Reconstituted National Party (RNP) won enough public support to force Wednesday's referendum after the council voted earlier this year to desegregiate the beaches...

The controversy, however, is not over. The council must now report to the government-appointed Administrator of the Cape province...

Certain background information cannot be provided in terms of press censorship under the state of emergency.

Meanwhile, Johannesburg's Star newspaper has reported that a black woman who won a \$27,000 (£17,500) home in a competition after living in a garage for 10 years cannot move in because it is in a white suburb.

Blank spaces lift newspaper sales

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Some South African newspapers have reported increased circulation since severe controls were placed on what they can report under the national state of emergency...

Under the emergency regulations, any member of the police force or the Army can, without warrant, enter and search any building and seize any material he considers a threat to public safety...

Mr Aggrey Klaaste, a senior columnist on the Sowetan, the main paper written by and for blacks in the Johannesburg area, said he also believed circulation was up...

Physical interference by the police with the production of newspapers has so far been fairly limited, but they have visited some newspaper offices asking to see the proofs of the next day's edition...

Bonn seeks the release of political prisoners

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, said yesterday he did not believe South Africa could become communist...

South Africa, but said "appropriate measures" should be adopted at the Compromis Market summit in The Hague next week...

Mr R.F. (Pik) Botha, South Africa's Foreign Minister, yesterday said Mrs Thatcher's rejection of imposing sanctions against his country was borne out of her own self-interest...

Botha says Thatcher had to veto sanctions

By On Foreign Staff

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The stand that Britain, America, Germany and, to a certain degree, France is taking is in the interests of those governments. They are concerned about unemployment - the hundreds of thousands of jobs that might be lost...



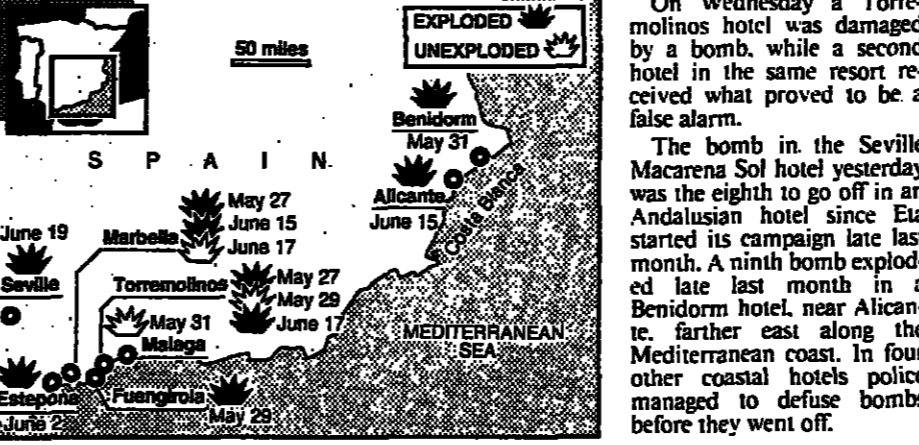
Two tourists watching as Civil Guard police with a dog trained to sniff out explosives check a car near Malaga yesterday.

Basque hotel bomb injures businessman in Seville

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A Spanish businessman was slightly injured yesterday when a bomb went off in his room in the four-star Macarena Sol hotel in Seville...

Seville's best known hotel, the five-star Alfonso XIII. A man telephoned at 6 am saying he was speaking from Bilbao on behalf of Eta...



EEC air fares plans crash

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

The EEC Commission's attempt to present European Transport Ministers with an ultimatum over lower air fares and an end to airline cartels ended in scenes of acrimony and chaos yesterday...

Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner for Competition, and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the Commissioner for Transport...

Popularity surge for Mitterrand

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Just three months after the Socialist defeat in the parliamentary elections, President Mitterrand's popularity is back at the record level it attained in the period following his election in May 1981...

Ship hijack leader denies murder

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The leader of the Arab hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro told a Genoese court yesterday that he and his three companions had no part in the death of Leon Klinghoffer...

High toll in Peru jail riots

Lima (Reuters) - Peruvian troops fought pitched battles with leftist guerrillas at two Lima prisons yesterday and a military communiqué said the death toll was high...

One hundred years of Greek studies for Britons

From Mario Modiano, Athens

When the British School was first established in Athens 100 years ago with the help of the Prince of Wales, all a diligent archaeologist needed to make a name for himself was a copy of Pausanias's Travels through Greece...

Mount Lycabettus, on a plot offered by the Greek authorities in what was then countryside for the 100,000-odd inhabitants of Athens...

Canyon tragedy bodies moved

Grand Canyon Village, Arizona (AP) - The collision of a helicopter and a twin-engine sightseeing plane over the Grand Canyon that killed 25 people, including 14 foreign tourists, may help end unregulated flights over national parks, a Congressman says...

Emergency crews reached the crash site on a sloping shelf one mile from the Colorado River and 2,000ft above it yesterday, and were to begin removing bodies to a temporary morgue and then to Flagstaff, 130 miles away...

Scientists in SDI warning

Washington - More than 1,600 scientists working in leading government and industrial laboratories yesterday signed a letter warning Congress that the Reagan Administration was pushing ahead too fast with the Strategic Defence Initiative...

Princess Anne off to Canada

Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association, flies to Canada today to inspect the sites for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary...

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Train crash

Rome (Reuters) - Twenty-five people were injured, but none seriously, yesterday when a passenger train ran into a stationary locomotive at Rome's Flaminia station, railway authorities said...

Struck off

Tokyo (AP) - The Imperial Household Agency has suspended sales of gold medals bearing a portrait of Emperor Hirohito because of his image is unsuitable in a profit-making venture, an agency official said yesterday...

President ill

Peking (Reuters) - China's 80-year-old President Li Xiannian, who has missed at least two scheduled official meetings in the past month, is in hospital, Premier Zhao Ziyang said yesterday. But he declined to say what was wrong with the President...

Pilot killed

Naples (AP) - A US Navy fighter pilot was killed on Wednesday after ejecting from his F14 aircraft over the Mediterranean, a Sixth Fleet spokesman said yesterday...

Killer heat

Delhi (AFP) - The death toll in a heatwave which has hit northern India in the last two weeks rose to 60 yesterday as reports from the western state of Rajasthan said 16 people had died there in the past week...

Ariane date

Bonn (Reuters) - The European Ariane satellite launch programme should be back on course by the end of this year after two recent aborted liftoffs, the Arianeespace president, M Frederic d'Allet, said...

Kenya pledge

Nairobi (Reuters) - The Kenyan Government has reassured foreign companies that their investments in the country are safe despite a statement by President Moi that Kenyans should control joint ventures...

Botha says Thatcher had to veto sanctions

By On Foreign Staff

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Labour camp threat for Russians on the fiddle

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin has launched a sweeping drive against bribery and corruption, with the passing of a series of Draconian decrees at the closing session yesterday of the bi-annual meeting of the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet parliament.

Under the new laws, a labour-camp term of two years is specified for those convicted of making false declarations about their sources of income on a controversial form which will have to be filled out by any citizen wishing to make a purchase worth more than the equivalent of £10,000.

Western sources said the laws, which also include an attempt to crack down on enterprises producing shoddy goods, were some of the most far-reaching passed in the Soviet Union in recent years. They were seen as evidence that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev had decided to follow his 1985 campaign against alcoholism with an equally difficult drive to root out the booming "black economy".

The most significant of the new decrees passed unanimously by the 5,000 deputies is designed to eliminate "unearned income", cash made illegally in a number of ways, including gambling, black marketing, and moonlighting.

Mr A. Rekunkov, the Soviet Prosecutor-General, told *Izvestia* that "unearned in-

come has become a serious problem due, among other things, to the drop in public discipline which has occurred in the 1970s and the beginning of the 80s... the main source of unearned income is criminal activity: embezzlement, bribery, speculation, extortion."

He said 40 per cent of *dachas* (summer houses) were being built with the illegal use of state equipment.

"Household electricity and gas is being being stolen, construction materials are acquired illegally, gambling has become widespread. Society cannot put up with this."

Commenting on the new laws, due to come into effect on July 1, Mr Vladimir Kuzmin, a senior official at the Ministry of Justice, said: "Groups of people have appeared in our society with clearly-defined private ownership aspirations, and with a contempt for public interests. One way or another, they try to live at the expense of others."

Mr Kuzmin said that under the new laws, bribe-taking on a large scale could be punished by the death sentence. The fine for the driver of a state-owned vehicle who used it for his own profit has been increased from the equivalent of £100 to £1,000.

The Supreme Soviet also passed Mr Gorbachev's first five-year plan, covering development of the economy until 1990.



The Chinese Communist Party leader, Mr Hu Yaobang, with President Mitterrand yesterday at the end of his visit to Paris.

Mitterrand settles date for Chinese nuclear plant deal

From Diana Geddes Paris

Mr Hu Yaobang, First Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, left Paris for Rome yesterday after expressing his "complete satisfaction" with the third stage of his European tour. He said it had been "crowned with success," as had his earlier visits to London and Bonn.

Content though both the Chinese and the French seemed with Mr Hu's four-day official visit to France, nothing particularly concrete or

spectacular emerged from his talks with French leaders, apart from the fixing of a date — in mid-October — for signing a final agreement on the construction of a nuclear power station near Canton.

At a joint press conference in Paris yesterday, President Mitterrand and Mr Hu said that although their countries had differences, their views were usually very similar on the broad international situation.

Asked for his views on an

eventual nuclear test ban, Mr Hu said that China had always advocated a complete destruction of all nuclear weapons.

Commenting on reports of differences between "conservatives" and "reformists" within the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Hu said it was "inevitable" that different points of view were put forward at certain moments in the discussion of broad political orientations. But when the moment came to take a decision, "we are always unanimous".

Sikh MPs fight over land swap

Delhi (Reuters) — Fights broke out in Punjab's State Assembly yesterday over a plan to swap 70,000 acres of land for the capital of Chandigarh.

The Press Trust of India said about 25 dissident parliamentarians of the ruling Akali Dal party, a moderate Sikh grouping, dragged the Speaker, Mr Surjit Singh Mihra, from his chair and knocked off his turban.

The swap was the key to a plan put up last week by the central Government to restore peace to the strife-torn north Indian state.

The land — 0.5 per cent of the majority Sikh state — stood in the way of a deal with neighbouring Haryana, a mainly Hindu state, which would make the city of Chandigarh, presently the shared capital of both states, the capital of Punjab only.

The deal was scheduled for tomorrow, but the Punjab Government of Mr Surjit Singh Barnala has demanded its revision.

Fears for the accord rose after talks on Wednesday night between Mr Barnala and two senior aides of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, ended in apparent failure.

Oslo: Norway has been more affected by the drop in oil prices than any other European country. It is in its way almost an old-fashioned anomaly tale. A country receives a gift from the fates of which it fails to take full advantage, and then suddenly finds that the liquid gold has changed into a much baser metal.

This is not, it is true, exactly a story of riches to rags. As one walks around Oslo today, one is not conscious with compassion for Norwegian poverty. There is new building everywhere. By any standards, this is the prosperous capital of a wealthy country.

Yet there has been an abrupt transformation. A balance-of-payments surplus of more than 25 million kroner (£2.2 million) last year has swung into an expected deficit of almost the same sum this year. A loss of 6 per cent in real income is calculated for

Oil had disruptive effect on country

the current year. This is bound to be a bit of a shock, even for the affluent.

Mr Hermod Skanland, the Director of the Bank of Norway, told me he is not convinced that oil in such quantities was ever a blessing to Norway. I can see what he meant: oil has brought not one but two disruptions to the Norwegian economy.

This was a country with a high standard of living even before oil. But it was an unbalanced economy, heavily dependent upon shipping. So oil brought the prospect not just of still higher living standards, but also of creating a more varied economy. Yet in fact it had a disruptive effect because Norway was not ready for it.

On visits in the mid-70s, I used to Norwegian businessmen in other industries lamenting that the coming of oil had made it more difficult for them to compete internationally. It had pushed up wage rates, drawn away skilled staff, and sent the value of the kroner soaring.

Then in the 80s, Norway began to cope better with its benefactor. More engineers and geologists had been trained. Wage increases were not so excessive, and from 1978 to 1983, government spending did not increase at the same rate as the oil revenues. All the state's foreign debt has been repaid.

But then in 1983 the Conservative Government did badly in local elections, and evidently concluded that its policies of restraint were poor politics, even if they were good economics. So the Government decided to spend more.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

too fast. It has given Norway virtually full employment today. But it made the collapse in oil prices all the more disruptive. The trade unions do not accept that the fall is more than temporary. But even on their own reckoning, some catchback is necessary.

The argument in Norway today is not on the principle of restraint, but on how much and how it should be applied. By raising indirect taxes? By phasing out income tax concessions which particularly benefit the better-off? By reducing public spending?

It is a depressingly familiar argument to British ears. Yet just as the coming of oil was not such a boon as the Norwegians at first imagined, so the

Lock-out was an isolated episode

drop in its value now need not be such a catastrophe. In each case, the Norwegian response is the decisive factor.

The recent lock-out of more than 100,000 workers may have suggested that Norway was losing its famed stability in industrial relations. But this seems to have been an isolated episode, a misconceived attempt on the part of employers to bring to a head difficult negotiations on working hours and minimum wages.

What matters in the long run is whether the fall in oil prices encourages a new realism that money is not around for the taking, and a greater emphasis on the other developing areas in the economy, such as electronics and information technology. If there is a sufficient sense of reality all round they could benefit from lower wage increases, less competition for scarce skills, and a reduced rate for the kroner.

But will Norway be swifter to respond to changing conditions now than it was in the 70s? The Norwegian moral is that economic miracles only work with a bit of effort here on earth.

Colombian church seeks more security for Pope's visit

From Geoffrey Matthews Bogotá

Colombia's Roman Catholic Church has called on the authorities to provide even more stringent security for the Pope than already planned during his visit to the country next month, while yet again appealing to subversive groups to abandon the armed struggle after the Interior Minister's escape from an April 19 assassination squad early this week.

It is now certain that when the Pope arrives here for a seven-day visit in the first

week of July he will encounter a country living under a state of siege, as indeed it has been — except for brief interludes — since the early 1950s when emergency powers were first introduced.

When M-19 ambushed the chauffeur-driven limousine of Minister of the Interior, Señor Jaime Castro, in Bogotá early on Tuesday morning he was telling a radio journalist he favoured the lifting of the state of siege — he was on his way to a Cabinet meeting which was widely expected to do just that.

Now all consideration of ending the emergency powers

is said by President Betancur's office to be in indefinite abeyance, and it seems inevitable that his successor, Señor Virgilio Barco Vargas, will take office on August 7 with the state of siege in place.

President Betancur, an independent conservative, was the first president in modern times to begin his four-year term (in 1982) resolutely determined not to rule with emergency powers. He tried to negotiate peace with the nation's various guerrilla groups and managed to do so for 20 months before being forced to impose a state of siege in four departments of

southern Colombia.

In May 1984, the state of siege was extended nationwide after Colombia was rocked by the activities of powerful cocaine barons, whose hit-men assassinated the Justice Minister, Señor Rodrigo Lara Boubilla, who had waged a courageous campaign to drive the drug mafia out of business.

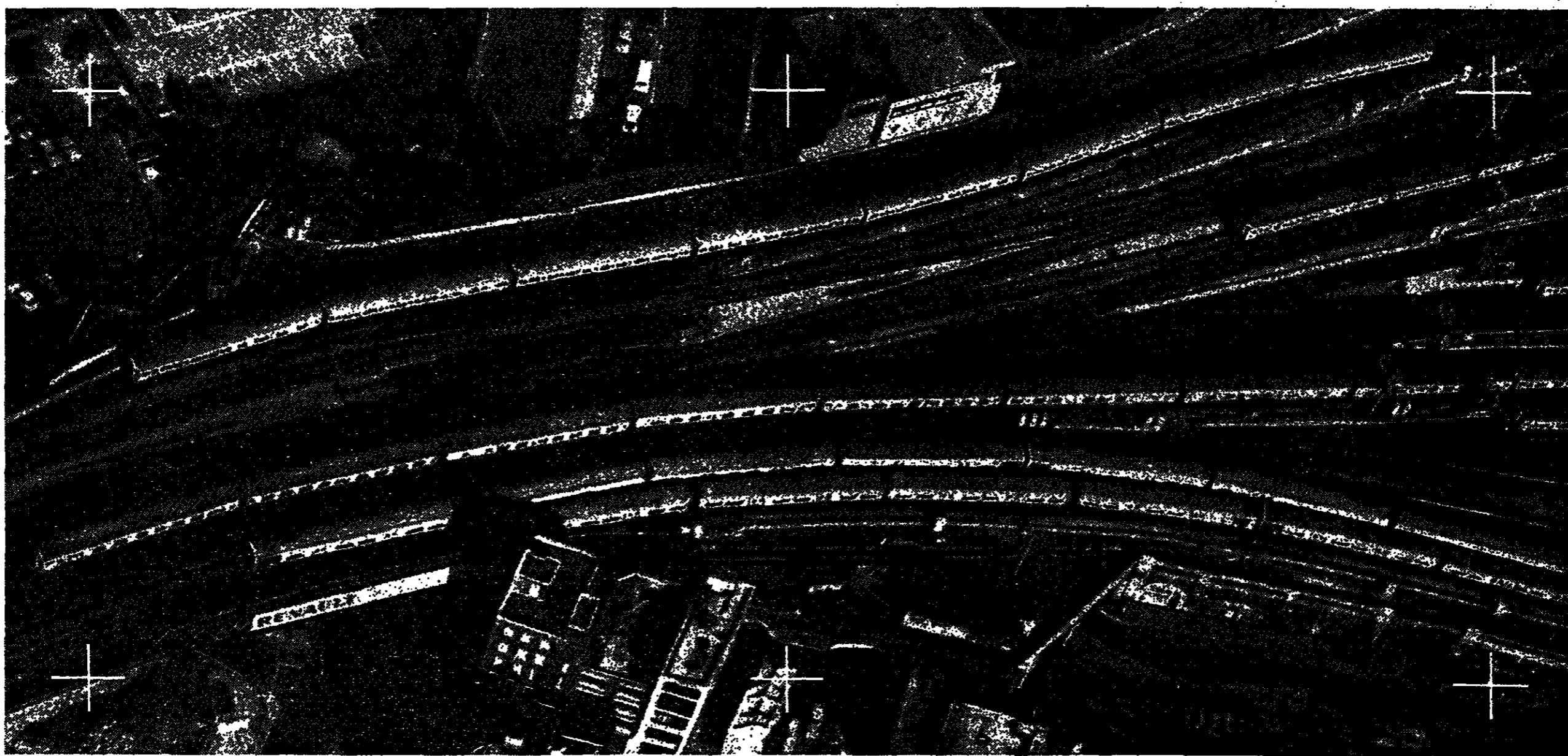
Señor Castro's narrow escape from death — more through luck than anything else — was described by the M-19 group as a reprisal for the "bloodbath" which resulted when Government troops ended the M-19 siege of the Pal-

ace of Justice in Bogotá last November.

The report by two jurists on the administration's management of that crisis had been bobbing around like a hot potato for at least two weeks. It was finally published on Señor Castro's recommendation, before the attempt on his life on Wednesday, and proved to be something of an anticlimax.

Although it was widely forecast that it would harshly criticize Señor Betancur and the Defence Minister, General Miguel Vega Uribe, it is comparatively mild.

On Monday morning British Rail will mount an operation four times bigger than D-Day. (It's called getting you to work.)



On Tuesday, 6th June 1944, Allied Command moved 156,000 men a distance of 80 miles. It took 2 years to organise and 2 days to implement.

On Monday morning (just like any other weekday morning) British Rail's Network SouthEast will carry over 600,000 passengers to work in a period of 5 hours along some 2,350 miles of track in 1,750 trains.

In London, this equates to one train arriving every 11 seconds during the peak hour

Network SouthEast have set themselves the task of ensuring that 90% of these trains arrive either on or within 5 minutes of their scheduled time.

Achieving this target would, with just one exception, give us a better punctuality record than any airline in the world.

An old enemy

It's not only our time-keeping we're fighting to improve. We're also planning sweeping changes on the cleanliness

front. From now on, every one of our 6,700 coaches will receive a daily dose of spit and polish, inside and out. Many will also be refurbished with new seats, better ventilation and a brand-new livery.

A tonic for the troops

Our stations are also under review. Having recently enlisted the help of various local authorities, we are now in a position to spend £20 million on improvements to many of them.

New information systems, a regular lick of paint and special cleaning squads should soon have them all ready for your inspection.

How soon will you see all these improvements? Regrettably not overnight.

There may even be a set back or two along the way. But the great advance has begun.

Network SouthEast

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Army and US urge cheaper alternative

Crisis for new Israeli plane

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Senior members of the Israeli Government are being urged by Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, to think again about pressing ahead with construction of a new fighter-attack aircraft, the Lavi.

Fears over arms sales to Arab world

Israel was basically opposed to all arms sales to the Arab world, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Jerusalem. On Saudi Arabian promises not to use Awas planes against Israel, he said: "It is pretty easy to give commitments, but we always fear that these arms may one day be turned against us."

costs and maintenance of the Army.

Of the rest, \$550 million is being spent on the Lavi, and \$150 million is earmarked for the Navy and for building tanks. There is little left over for modernizing the Army, at a time when Arab countries are building up their arsenals with advanced missiles and artillery.

Letters this week from the two Americans emphasized that the cost of the project should be re-assessed against its overall impact on the Israeli defence budget. Mr Weinberger, at a news conference in Washington on Wednesday, was sharply critical of continued development of the aircraft, and insisted Israel should be seeking alternatives.

One suggestion is that the Pentagon could allow Israel to build the American F16 aircraft and fit it with avionics developed for the Lavi. Despite that, the Government here continues to back development of the Lavi, which is due to be "rolled out" next month and make its first flight in September.

During Independence Day celebrations last month thousands of proud Israelis took the opportunity to look at the aircraft, which is to replace the ageing American-supplied F15, and is meant to maintain air superiority in the Middle East into the next century.

Defence Department experts have been doing their best to persuade Israel to drop the project, even after it has spent about \$1.2 billion (£800 million) on it so far. While Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, was in Washington to sign an agreement bringing Israel into the Star Wars project, he was privately being urged by Mr Weinberger to drop the Lavi.

The basic American argument is financial, and is being pressed hardest by Dr Dov Zakheim, US Assistant Secretary of Defence. He led a team of Pentagon experts here earlier this month which tried to persuade Israel that it had got its calculations wildly wrong and was under-estimating the cost of producing each aircraft by \$7 million to \$9 million.

Since America meets 70 per cent of Israel's defence expenditure, the cost of this miscalculation would add enormously to the military aid bill. In Israel the cost of the project is also worrying top military officers, regardless of

whose estimate is correct. The Lavi accounts for a quarter of the total defence budget, and will need even more if it goes into production. Major-General Amir Drori, Commander of Ground Forces, has said: "If the Lavi files, the Army will lie on the ground."

Like many senior officers, he believes the aircraft is soaking up money desperately needed to keep the Army fighting fit. A cheaper alternative should be found, even though it would have to be purchased from the US.

The Chief of Staff, General Moshe Levy, said as much in an interview this week. The Lavi, he said, was professionally better because it was like a good, tailor-made suit. It was possible, however, to buy a perfectly satisfactory suit off the peg. Even if Israel's own figures are correct, the cost of producing the aircraft is enormous in comparison to the defence budget. American military aid is running at \$1.8 billion, of which half is spent on running

Japanese invent leg powered by battery

Tokyo (Reuter) - A voice-activated wheelchair and an artificial leg (pictured left) that will greatly improve freedom of movement for the handicapped have been developed in Japan, a Government spokesman said yesterday.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry said the wheelchair was the first voice-activated model able to move in all directions. Mounted on a hydraulic lift on a wheeled platform, it can respond to 30 simple spoken commands that order 360 degree rotation of the wheels, 180 degree swivelling of the chair and a seven inch lift.

A second version of the chair can shift a partially handicapped person into a semi-standing position, the spokesman said.

The artificial leg is powered by a battery and activated by an electronic sensor that responds to the user's upper leg and hip muscle movements in a similar way to a real leg. It bends at the knee and allows the user to climb stairs in a natural way.

The Ministry, which funded the six-year 500 million yen (£2 million) projects, said there were 500,000 potential customers for the chair and 50,000 for the leg in Japan. They will be ready for sale in about three years and will cost about two million yen each.

Paris and NZ to accept UN referee

From Richard Long, Wellington

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, confirmed last night that Wellington would abide by the ruling of the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, when he arbitrates on differences between New Zealand and France arising from the Rainbow Warrior affair.

New Zealand and France will present their positions to the Secretary-General forthwith. Both sides have agreed to abide by his ruling. Both Paris and Wellington were confident the ruling would be "equitable and principled". The chief point at issue is the fate of the French agents, Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart, jailed for 10 years for their part in the sabotage last year of the Greenpeace protest ship in Auckland harbour and the death of a crew member.

Mr Lange has said the agents would not be "released to freedom", and it is assumed this requirement is in Wellington's terms of reference for the arbitration. It has been speculated that the agents could be transferred to a form of detention in another country.

Other outstanding differences include Wellington's demand for approximately \$NZ30 million (£7 million) compensation. While Mr Lange did not mention trade in his statement, a spokesman said Paris had lifted a ban on importation of New Zealand lamb brains, worth \$NZ28 million a year.

PARIS: The Rainbow Warrior was sunk as it prepared to protest against French Pacific nuclear tests (Reuter reports). Earlier talks between Paris and Wellington on settlement of the dispute got nowhere because New Zealand refused to negotiate release of the agents. France at first denied any involvement in the affair but after a political crisis in Paris and the resignation in September of the Defence Minister, M Charles Hernu, it admitted the ship was blown up by secret agents.



Inquiry likely into Shin Bet cover-up

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

It is now likely there will be a full investigation into allegations that two Palestinians were murdered by Israel's counter intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, which then organized a cover-up - but it will be conducted with total secrecy.

The final decision on whether there will be an investigation must be made by the new Attorney-General, Mr Yosef Harish, who has said it is "unavoidable". But he has said he will not make up his mind about how to conduct the investigation until after he has consulted Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Vice Prime Minister.

For his part, Mr Peres has made it clear he will reluctantly agree to an investigation but it must be held with complete secrecy to avoid harming national security. Mr Shamir is opposed to any investigation but given that one is "unavoidable", he is certain to insist on secrecy.

be difficult to ensure given the extensive number of leaks about the affair, which alleges that two Palestinian hijackers were murdered on the orders of Mr Avraham Shalom, the Shin Bet chief, who then master-minded a cover-up.

Mr Yitzhak Zamir, the former attorney-general, has been blamed for the leaks and two Knesset members have laid official complaints against him, accusing him of revealing state secrets.

There is also a growing lobby in the Knesset arguing that Mr Shalom will have to be replaced now that his identity is known.

Today, a former senior Shin Bet officer, Mr Rafi Malka, still living a case against the Government and Shin Bet itself for wrongful dismissal. The case is to be heard in secret, but Mr Malka has claimed that he lost his job after complaining to the Prime Minister that a cover-up had been put together after the death of the two Palestinians.

Kuwaitis suspect sabotage

Kuwait (Reuter) - Firemen put out a blaze set off by a string of explosions on Tuesday evening at Kuwait's main oil export refinery, the Kuwait News Agency, Kuna, reported.

The Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah, indicated that the blasts might have been caused by what he called "criminal acts".

But the Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah, said that sabotage could not be confirmed until after an investigation into what he said were four simultaneous explosions at or near the Mina al-Ahmadi refinery, 20 miles south of Kuwait City.

Security forces continued their investigation as the newspaper al-Qadisi reported it had learned that five bombs caused the explosions around the 275,000 barrel-a-day refinery.

Bourguiba names successor

Tunis (Reuter) - President Bourguiba of Tunisia yesterday ended months of speculation about the political future of his Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Mzali, by confirming him as his successor.

Mr Bourguiba, a frail figure at the age of 82, was prompted by presidential aides throughout his speech, which he read with difficulty at the 12th congress of his ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD).

It was his first public statement concerning Tunisia's enduring succession issue since he reshuffled his Cabinet in April, limiting the power of Mr Mzali and sacking some of his closest Cabinet associates. Mr Mzali, the Prime Minister for the past six years and Interior Minister since the bloody 1984 "bread riots", lost the latter job in the reshuffle.

Laos accused of killing 35 refugees in Thailand

Bangkok (Reuter) - Thai newspapers carried gruesome pictures of mutilated Laotian women and children yesterday as Laos denied that its troops were responsible for a weekend massacre of 35 refugees in northern Thailand.

A Thai military spokesman said 11 women, three girls, 15 boys and six men - all seeking refuge from Laos - were killed six miles inside Thailand's Phayao province. Pointing to pictures of the charred victims, the spokesman asked: "Where are the international human rights organizations?"

Foreign diplomats were shocked by the pictures and reports of an apparently well-planned military operation against helpless civilians. But there was no independent confirmation of Thai charges that the attack was undertaken by Laotian Government troops acting with the knowledge of Vientiane.

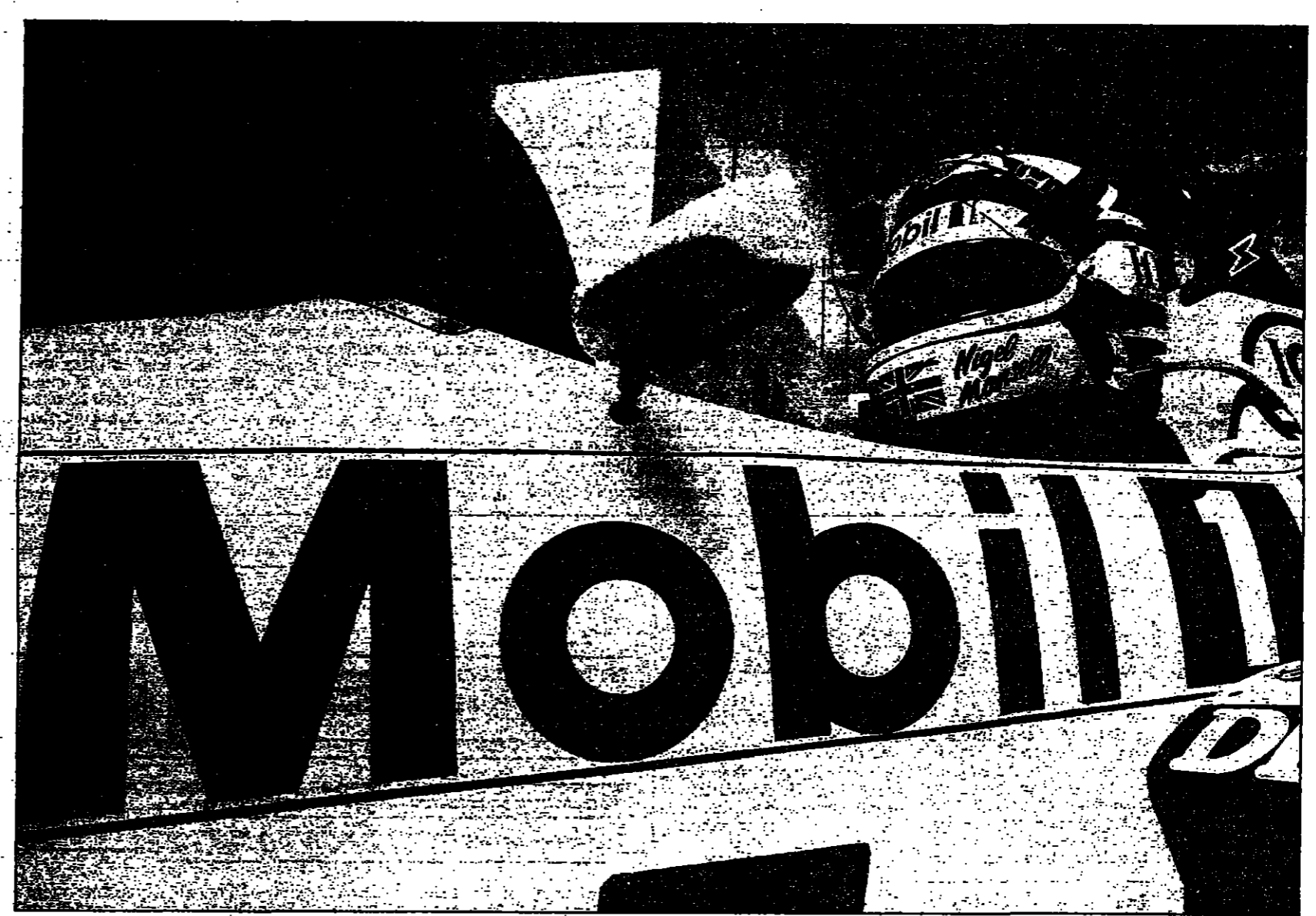
The Laotian Ambassador rejected Thailand's charges.

that Laotian troops were responsible for the killings. Thailand said Laotian troops used machineguns, hand grenades and rocket grenades in their attack on a hamlet of about 150 unarmed Laotians, killing 35 people.

One survivor said the refugees fled into Thailand about three months ago, because Laotian soldiers stole livestock and property, conscripted men for labour and raped one girl.

The Thai Foreign Ministry, in a protest note prepared for the United Nations, called it a premeditated atrocity "solely motivated to stem the flow of Laotian emigrants who fled from oppressive conditions in Laos".

Informed Thai military sources said Laotian Government troops killed 13 civilians inside Thailand's Loi province on September 14 last year, apparently over a trading dispute. But the incident was not widely known and Bangkok did not make a public protest.



Mansell's winning formula

Nigel Mansell has done it again with a blistering win for the Williams' team in the Canadian Grand Prix.

And it's not just on the race-track that we lead the field.

Mobil's advanced synthetic lubricants are part of this winning formula.

Mobil Synthetic Oils

The world's most advanced lubricants

mount D-Day



FROM SOUTH EAST

The shame of Shin Bet



Israel's secret service, Shin Bet, is now certain to face the glare of an inquiry after the deaths in custody of two Palestinian terrorists, the survivors of a gun

bloody hijack of a bus. A news photograph (above) proved they were alive after the attack.

Ian Murray reports on a far-reaching scandal

Israel's prized and much-vaunted counter-intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, is in disgrace. It is bound to change its methods but it is difficult to see how this can be done for the better. Operationally it is facing problems which must undermine its undoubted efficiency in controlling terrorism inside Israel.

This is a harsh judgement but a necessary one now that an inquiry is inevitable into what happened after the army stormed a hijacked number 300 bus in the Gaza Strip on the night of April 12, 1984. The inquiry may or may not be in secret. It may or may not be judicial, but already enough questions have been raised to make any set of answers unsatisfactory for the service. As Yosef Harish, the new Attorney-General, said this week: it is unavoidable.

What is known is that the army killed two hijackers and captured two others when they stormed the bus. The two prisoners were photographed walking under escort away from the bus. The two prisoners died from head injuries a few hours later. The official version was that the two had died from injuries received when the bus was stormed. The photograph published in the mass circulation daily *Hadashot* shows that to be a lie. A military court has since found that the officer in charge of the operation, Brigadier General Yitzhak Mordechai, was not to blame for the deaths, although he admitted hitting the two round the head. He has since been promoted to the general staff.

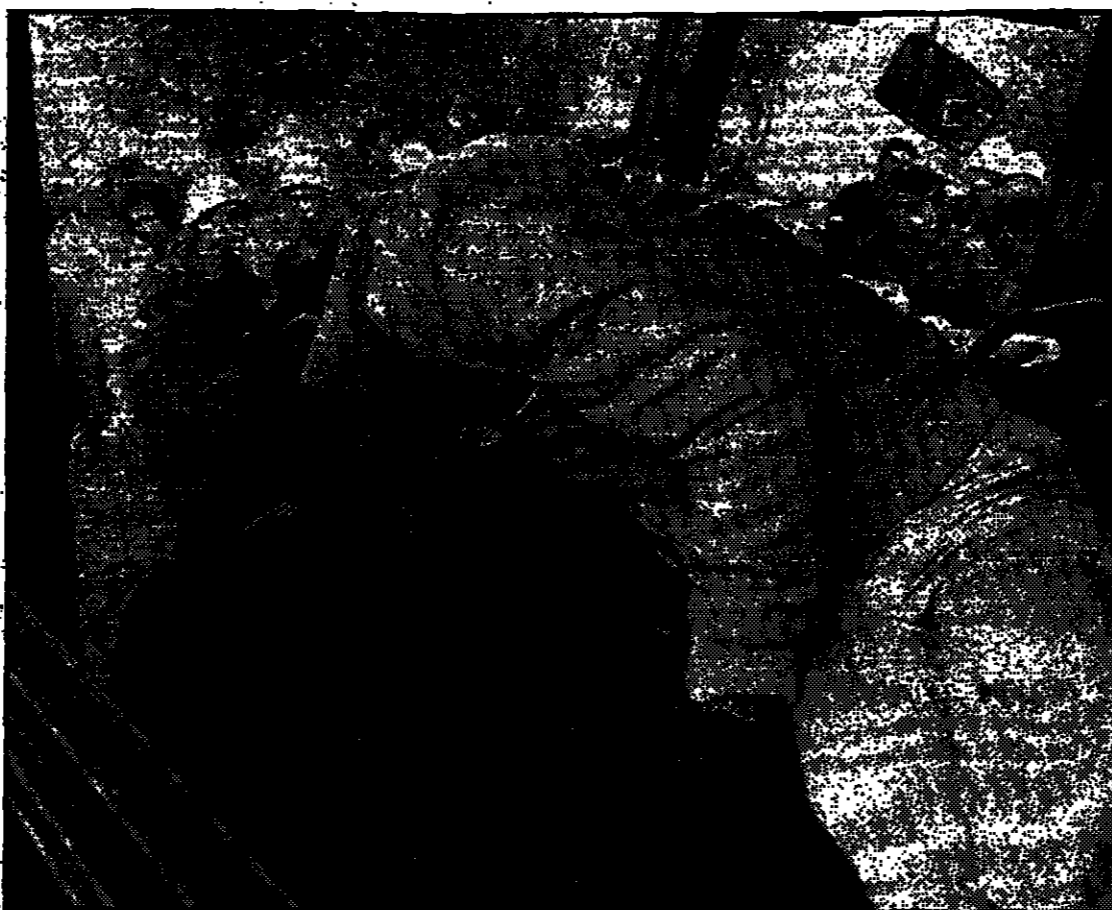
What is not known publicly is what happened to the two prisoners from the time they were handed over by the army to Shin Bet in whose custody they died. Information about this was given privately to Mr

Yitzhak Zamir, who was replaced as Attorney-General a week after insisting that he would open a police inquiry into what had happened. His evidence was provided by three very senior Shin Bet officers, who suggested that the agency's head, Mr Avraham Shalom, had actually ordered the killings and then arranged a careful cover-up.

It would surprise no one in Israel to discover that the two men had been beaten to death. As hijackers, prepared to kill innocent people, they received the punishment most Israelis want given to terrorists in a country with no death penalty. Nor would an organized cover-up be a surprise. Depending on political views, many Israelis would even be highly delighted if a cover-up incriminated Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who was Prime Minister when the incident occurred, or Mr Shimon Peres, who is Prime Minister at the moment.

But the fact that the hijackers died in custody raises a whole series of questions about the future of Shin Bet. Mr Menachem Begin, when he was elected Prime Minister in 1977, issued an order that in future the Shin Bet must rely on brains and not brawn to obtain its information — a clear sign that brutality was common if not the norm. Despite the order it is obvious that violence came only too naturally to the men holding the two hijackers. On a night when a girl soldier had been killed aboard the bus, the two prisoners would not have found sympathetic interrogators.

But this in turn raises the question of the quality of evidence regularly supplied by Shin Bet to the police. It is relatively rare for a Palestinian to be tried without the prosecution



Killed by commandos: one of the hijackers slumped over the wheel of the bus



Caught in the crossfire: (from left) Yitzhak Zamir, replaced as Attorney-General; Yitzhak Mordechai, officer in charge; Yosef Harish, new Attorney-General; Shimon Peres, PM

putting forward a confession. It is equally rare for the defendant not to claim that the confession was obtained under torture.

Where harsh treatment ends and torture begins may be a fine line, but Shin Bet does not have a feared reputation for nothing. Shin Bet may well feel it can justify rough tactics.

But if there is a suspicion that confessions are being extracted under torture and that evidence is being fabricated, the courts may find it very difficult to pass judgement.

Perhaps the most serious question

is what is now happening to morale inside Shin Bet. The evidence against its chief was supplied by three of his closest associates, who have worked with him down the years. One of them might have expected to succeed to the job. But despite all their training and inevitable loyalties, the three decided to sacrifice their careers and put the service itself at risk by giving information to the Attorney-General.

Mr Shalom is a highly respected officer, who is said to be much admired by the Prime Minister. Yet the Shin Bet leader's colleagues have turned against him. Why they decided to make the case known remains a mystery, but they are said by Mr Zamir to have been moved by concern of the way the agency was working above and beyond the law. Intelligence agencies in any democracy tend to break the law with a certain amount of impunity and it is the duty of their leaders to make sure that they do not overstep the mark in a way which will challenge the safety of the democracy itself.

This in essence seems to be why the three decided to blow the whistle.

It became more methodical and more ruthless. The intelligence services ran as a military operation. The scale of the Israeli triumph in the Six Day War was a dangerous inspiration for its military and security services. The feeling of invincibility was strong and the certainty of Arab cowardice and fallibility was total. That led directly to the massive intelligence blunder which meant Israel was caught flat-footed at the start of the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

The long term result of the Six Day War was international terrorism. This was not exactly new, but the whole

recruited many of its new small teams from Shin Bet, which had already built up a considerable counter-espionage reputation of finding Soviet infiltrators. Within a couple of years the dynamic and rather rotund Isser Harel, the head of Shin Bet, was moved over to run the new organisation. For the next two years he was basically in charge of both internal and external security and he imposed his standards, morals and personality on both services.

Harel was a hardworking

Spymasters who created a nation

In the beginning were the spies. They were sent by Moses into the Land of Canaan and returned with grapes and stories of a land flowing with milk and honey. From this biblical espionage reconnaissance grew the people's graving and claim for a modern state of Israel.

In the beginning of that state, too, were the spies. In a sense Israel is an undercover creation, peopled by illegal immigrants smuggled out of many countries into a land that had to be conquered and held by an underground army, armed with weapons bought and brought in secret. The spies had to be in at the beginning and without them there could have been no country.

These unlikely founding fathers ran the operation to bring in settlers under the noses of the British. That was

the Mossad Aliyah Beth or Institute of Illegal Immigration. They scoured Europe for weapons to arm the Haganah — the underground army. That was the Rehesh. They penetrated deep into the British administration of the Mandate, army and police.

Ben Gurion: creator of the agencies which eventually brought him down

They worked among the local Arab population. They monitored the many dissident Jewish movements. That was the Shai, the most secret group of all.

From the Shai was to grow the Sheruth Bitachon Klalit, the General Security Service.

best known by its Hebrew initials 'Shin Bet'.

With independence won, almost the first order issued by Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion was to reshape the secret service to meet the needs of a new state. Shai was split into three to include a military intelligence unit, the Agat Modiin (Aman), the political department of the foreign ministry and the internal security unit — Shin Bet.

The foreign ministry unit assessed the world's political manoeuvring. Aman kept a check on the world's arsenal. Shin Bet would keep the new country in order.

Of the first leaders of the three sections, two were dismissed in disgrace and in 1951 a new agency, called simply the Mossad (the Institute) was created. There were mass resignations from angry agents round the world and Mossad



recruited many of its new small teams from Shin Bet, which had already built up a considerable counter-espionage reputation of finding Soviet infiltrators. Within a couple of years the dynamic and rather rotund Isser Harel, the head of Shin Bet, was moved over to run the new organisation. For the next two years he was basically in charge of both internal and external security and he imposed his standards, morals and personality on both services.

Harel was a hardworking

policeman, with a limited education and boundless flair, who inspired something not far from worship in the men he sent out on dangerous missions. A ruthless man of practical honesty, he trained men to lie, cheat and kill expertly. A spymaster extraordinary, he is said to have walked out in disgust at the only James Bond film he ever went to see.

It was he who masterminded the kidnapping of Adolf Eichmann from Buenos Aires in 1960, leading a team of twelve from both Mossad and Shin Bet, which included two men who are now uncomfortably in the limelight for breaking the spies' most important commandment — Thou Shall Not Be Found Out.

One of them, Rafi Eitan, has just been named by the American courts for running an Israeli spy ring in the United States. The other is Avraham Shalom, the present head of Shin Bet, accused of ordering the killing in custody of two Palestinians and then covering up the evidence about it.

These are accusations which, arguably, Isser Harel would never have faced. But in the end he became the victim of his own suspicions and integrity. Harel produced evidence which showed that the Prime Minister could have been wrong in forcing his defence minister, Pinhas Lavon, to resign for allegedly ordering a firebomb campaign in Egypt. The Lavon affair brought Ben Gurion down, but then Harel had himself resigned in fury because a new man had been brought in to run military intelligence.

The new man was Meir Amit, who had methodically built up the one section of intelligence virtually ignored by Harel. He compiled massive dossiers on every aspect of the countries he knew were likely enemies. He had discovered that Harel had failed to realise Egypt was arming itself with rockets. He stripped the great leader of Mossad and Shin Bet of his legendary reputation and virtually forced him to resign.

With Amit in charge, Mossad changed personality.

scale of it changed. In this fight, Shin Bet has had to come into its own, often using the Mossad as its executioner, to track down and kill wanted terrorists round the world. Shin Bet and Mossad still regard assassination of key terrorists as justifiable.

But Shin Bet essentially stays at home. Its agents are all university graduates, with good army records, the large majority of them of European descent. Their task is to prevent terrorism and to break Palestinian resistance, and they stay as much as possible out of the limelight, their dark, unlovely reputation among Palestinians balanced by a huge and largely justified prestige in Israel.

It is only because Ben Gurion, by what might have been a slip of the tongue, actually named the service in the Knesset that its name is now allowed to be published. A reporter in 1980 had his press credentials withdrawn after daring to publish the name of the then head of the organisation.

Books are written about the Mossad, but its dark sister the Shin Bet hardly likes to see its name in print.

A reason to keep on running

Twenty years after his pop heyday Steve Winwood is back on the road with a new album

When it comes to longevity in the rock music business, Steve Winwood is in a class of his own. Though he is of an age with Mark Knopfler, Peter Gabriel and Robert Palmer, he is from an earlier era.

Still only 37, his single "Keep on Running" was in the charts while his contemporaries were still finding their way around the fret board. On the road at 15, he might share the bill in those days with Dusty Springfield or the pre-"Satisfaction" Stones, yet more than 20 years later his appeal is still fresh and vivid.

In recent years he has rationed his work and appearances. His output could hardly be described as prolific — since 1979 there have been a mere 16 songs on two albums — but Winwood's clarity of purpose will ensure that his new album, *Back in the High Life Again*, will be greeted warmly on its release on June 30.

"I'm a slow worker," he smiles apologetically. "There's absolutely no excess." Looking remarkably untouched by the years, the complexion fresh, the russet hair fashionably cut, and the hazel eyes clear, he exudes a shy but genial charm. With the album comes a single, "Higher Love", and a world tour. Once notoriously reclusive, he has taken advice and is prepared to do battle with the spotlight again.

"It's true, I haven't performed much in recent years. Most of my work has been in the studio, which I have enjoyed a great deal," he explained. "I'm getting to like performing again but you can understand I went off it — I'd done 15 years on the road and I wanted a break. Now there is a world tour I suppose I've got to like it!"

Justifiably, he has never been an artist to cloak his music in extravagant light shows and dancing girls, but with new managers and, one senses, a new push to capitalise on his rare talent, the tour will be visually more appealing than previously.

High Life is the first album since *Talking Back to The Night* in 1962, which

followed the 1980 *Arc of a Diver*, itself a spontaneous best-seller here and in America. Both are considered collectors' items, not least because they were composed, performed, engineered and produced by Winwood himself.

"It was a valid way to work and I'm glad some good things came out of those two records, but I no longer wanted to work like that. I didn't want to spend hours programming a computer base part sitting there on my own. I wanted to go somewhere else, meet new people and get a bit of excitement into it."

High Life was recorded in New York over a period of 8 months and features of the diverse talents of Chaka Khan, James Taylor, Nile Rogers and Joe Walsh. Though some might



Steve Winwood: a comeback

dislike this attempt to bring fresh life to his music, the unique timbre of his voice survives untouched, sailing above whatever is going on beneath.

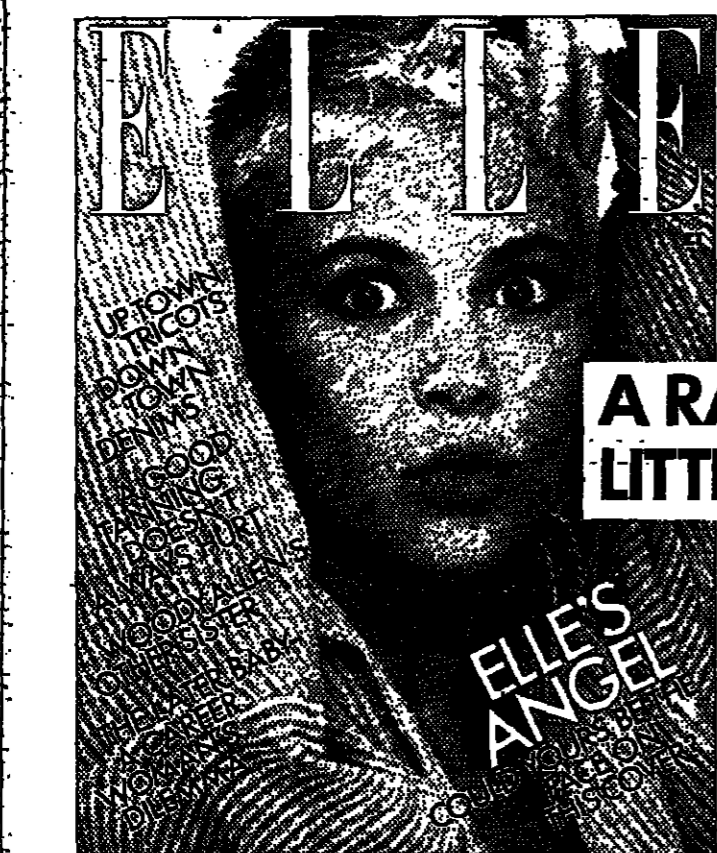
Meanwhile Winwood has completed the incidental music for a Granada Television documentary and he is looking for further artistic challenges.

"The song-form is fascinating, and the more I do the more I realize how little I know about it, but I would like to do more incidental music and music for films. I find more and more that a formal musical education was very valuable to me," he reflects.

That he will emerge as a lasting composer there can be little doubt but the immediate future is concerned with the world tour, singles, videos, the whole rock-star routine. He seems slightly abashed by it.

"I'm doing this career drive," he says dryly, "in the autumn of my career."

Christopher Wilson



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ELLE OUT NOW £1

ELLE IS... A RATHER TASTY LITTLE NUMBER.

Advertisement for 'SATURDAY Portfolio Gold' featuring a picture of a castle and text: '£12,000 to be won', 'Londres sur Loire', 'Jonathan Meades finds rillons de porc and other exotica of French regional cookery imperfectly reproduced in London's West End'.

Form for requesting a copy of The Times: 'Can you always get your copy of The Times? Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times. NAME: ADDRESS:'

Advertisement for 'CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 981' with a crossword grid and clues: 'ACROSS 1 Dimpled pancake (6), 5 Rámshackle hut (6), 8 Nevertheless (3), 9 Idiocy (6), 10 Immerse (6), 11 Snirk (4), 12 Rough (3), 14 Lower part (6), 17 Infer (6), 19 Bicycle (4,4), 22 Wise man (4), 24 Elephant seat (6), 25 Dublin river (6), 26 Metal rock (3), 27 Groovy moneylender (6), 28 Tell (6). DOWN 2 Solitary (5), 3 Egg jeweller (7), 4 Eyelid hair (7), 5 Bullock (5), 6 Sponsorship (5), 7 Israel financial centre (3,4), 13 One spot card (3), 18 Calm (7), 15 Harshly loud (7), 20 Concaler (5), 16 Male swan (3), 21 Gods' veins fluid (5), 17 Resident (7), 23 Hotel patron (5).

FRIDAY PAGE

son to keep running

After a day of good is road... followed the 1986... Best-seller here and... Both are... because they were... performed, registered... produced by... himself.

High life was... New York over a... months and... of... James... and... though...

But then she was accepted for... theological training... became a deaconess... while she was running a parish in Liverpool... she began to feel the absurdity of the situation... The vicar of my parish had been appointed to another job and it takes, on average, a year to appoint a successor... During that time I was running the parish, but because a deaconess cannot celebrate communion, marry or give absolution I had to import priests to do these things.

"I felt it was particularly sad for the parish. Sunday communion is a celebration of all that's been going on in the past week and preparation for the week ahead... I felt it was important for the celebrant to be someone who had been in contact with the parish all the time... I didn't think it should be someone coming in from outside, doing a bit of magic.

TURDAY... to be won

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My vocation: Vivienne Faulk, chaplain at Claire College, Cambridge insists 'We are talking about when, not if'

Equal before God?

The argument as to whether women should be ordained as priests has been raging for some time. But the debate took an extraordinary turn yesterday with news of a proposal to divide the Church of England into two - one part with women priests and one without.

The idea was one of several options put forward by a working group to be debated by the General Synod at York next month. But why do some women wish to become priests - and how do they react to the idea that their ambition may have such cataclysmic results?

Vivienne Faulk is chaplain at Claire College, Cambridge. Now 30, she says she first became aware that she wanted to work in the Church when she was 18, although at the time it was her sister who wanted to be a vicar.

Vivienne read History at Oxford, spent two years teaching in India and came back to England to do youth work in Liverpool for a year. "All that time," she says, "I think I was running away from my vocation."

But then she was accepted for theological training, became a deaconess and while she was running a parish in Liverpool she began to feel the absurdity of the situation. "The vicar of my parish had been appointed to another job and it takes, on average, a year to appoint a successor. During that time I was running the parish, but because a deaconess cannot celebrate communion, marry or give absolution I had to import priests to do these things."

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The ordination of women may split the Church of England next month. Lee Rodwell talks to three potential priests who are waiting to join the ministry

and then going away again. But she admits that "it is hard for people to understand. Locals used to call me the Lady Vicar. And it was difficult when they asked me to do their weddings and I had to say no. I always felt awful. I just felt I'd like to be able to do the job properly."

"I accept that I am probably being selfish in that I feel called to this ministry and I can't deny it. But I also feel I'm articulating the things that many parishioners want to say. It's not just me on my own demanding something. The reaction to women priests is rather like the reaction used to be to women doctors, but once women have been working in parishes they have been accepted. Through familiarity those prejudices disappear."

Vivienne feels that the opposition within the church itself is rather different. "I've had male priests say awful things to me such as 'ordinating you would be like ordaining a dog or a potato'. The opposition goes much deeper than rational theology. A lot of them are in the church because it still is a male preserve."

However, Vivienne believes that the tide has turned so that the majority of the church is now in favour of the ordination of women. "That's why we've got all this sabre-rattling," she says. "It's because people are beginning to accept that it is going to happen, because we are talking about when not if. And it will be interesting to see what happens when this report goes to Synod. If the Church of England can keep itself together for long enough for things to settle down, there will be no need for a split. But at the moment I feel there are two

sides, hurling grenades at each other over a fence in the middle and that there is not enough dialogue going on. That is sad. Women like myself do not want to cause hurt. That's not part of the Christian ethic."

For the past year Shelagh Brown has been running the parish of St John's in Caterham, Surrey. Shelagh was standing on the beach at Blackpool at the age of 7 when she heard a Salvation Army

Her main concern is that by refusing to allow women to be ordained as priests, the church continues to affirm that women are inferior. She says: "Women are dishonoured throughout the world. I do believe that through Christianity women have been set free. Even St Paul said 'husbands love your wives', which was quite something at the time. But we have a long way to go and the church should be leading the way, not dragging its heels."

"I don't want the changes just for myself, but for women - and for men. Not all men are oppressors, of course, but in some ways the situation is like that of a prison camp. Who are the least free - the guards or the prisoners? Spiritually, it is the oppressor."

"I don't know what's going to happen in the next few weeks. I shall weep if the church splits. But churches have purged themselves before and if it happens I don't think that women should be blamed for it. We are not doing it; it's happening because of the emotional problems some of the men in the church have with women."

Barbara Baker, aged 50, from Hornchurch in Essex, is just finishing her first year's training at Lincoln Theological College. She says: "The reasons why a woman goes into the church are really no different from a man's. You receive a call and most of us, both men and women, are reluctant to start with. It's the 'why me?' feeling."

"The difference is that at the end of the course you go into a parish as a deaconess in the same way as a deacon but a man will go on to be priested

Women should be able to become priests. The ministry is incomplete without a woman

Band playing 'I Will Make You Fishers of Men.' "It was as if Jesus was talking to me," she says. "From then on I have wanted people to know the love of God, the forgiveness of God."

Throughout her life Shelagh has played an active role within the church and was actually working as a pastoral auxiliary - visiting people and setting up home discussion groups - when someone suggested she train as a deaconess. She says it was "the last thing" she had thought of doing.

Like Vivienne she gets furious at having to import men to do the tasks she is not allowed to do. "Men of over 80 sometimes. It's not that they are not good or holy men, it's just that they get in a middle."

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Passive smoking: no significant danger

Over the last few years continuous passive smoking (inhaling other people's smoke) has become widely accepted as dangerous but a major piece of research to be published in next month's British Journal of Cancer has the hallmark of turning the received wisdom into one of the medical controversies of the year.

The researchers - from the Institute of Cancer Research in Surrey - conclude that passive smoking, for life-long non-smokers, carries a significant increase in risk of lung cancer, bronchitis, or heart disease - all commonly associated with smoking.

One of the general criticisms made by the team about earlier research is that the studies were based on a tiny number of people and so extrapolations from the figures would lead to bias.

The Institute's study involved over 12,000 people and its conclusions are based on a wealth of statistical detail too complicated to be summarised here. However, the study repeats the observation published in 1978 that even under quite extreme conditions the time taken for a non-smoker to inhale the equivalent of one cigarette would be 11 hours for ash and solid matter and 50 hours for nicotine.

People exposed to passive smoking are also more likely to be smokers themselves while finding a non-smoking victim of lung cancer is relatively difficult. These, and many other points, leave the researchers convinced that until further detailed research is completed, any increase in risk between passive smoking and lung cancer and other smoking associated diseases is not a true reflection that passive smoking is dangerous.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

patient departments, on at least two occasions, with recurrent stomach upsets, frequently complaining of constant burping.

No cause had been found for their symptoms during the initial investigation. They had been referred back to their general practitioners and reassured that there was nothing wrong with them.

However, that reassurance seems only to last for two or three years. The symptoms persist and their patients go back to their GPs convinced that something must be wrong. Many of them knew someone who had been told that their own symptoms were due to "nerves" only to die from cancer soon afterwards.

After reassuring the patient that there really is nothing to worry about, another year lapses, the GP succumbs to pressure and the patient again turns up in the outpatient department - on average five years after the first appointment.

This pattern can repeat itself. Four patients had made four visits each - all with a gap of about five years between appointments. And, as Dr Wright points out, this cyclical phenomenon is not restricted to people with stomach problems. Patients with chest pain and over-breathing also go to hospital with a similar frequency.

Whether or not the damp spring has attracted more mosquitoes to this country is questionable.

Anyone who lives near marshy land, spends summers in Scotland or regularly goes fishing knows that they can be a menace any year.

Some people suffer severe reactions to mosquito bites: their arms or legs balloon, the tissue around the bite hardens and local muscles feel stiff. Detering the beasts from biting is the only protection.

There are now two effective insect repellents available. Look on the label to check what the constituents are and their strength. Diethyl toluamide (popularly called 'deet') has been around for some years and has been used by soldiers on Nato exercises in Scandinavia where mosquitoes are particularly vicious. It is not worth buying a preparation with much less than 40 per cent of deet in it; you will have to apply so much lotion for the job to be done properly.

This year, too, preparations containing ethoxycadiol have been marketed. It is slightly less powerful than deet but also less smelly. Jungle Formula is one of the best preparations containing deet while some of the Z-Stop range contain ethoxycadiol.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Ratatatat: where's Albert?

While we have been away on holiday, Albert took up residence in our London home. I returned to find a cereal packet ripped open and the dog biscuits scattered. Thinking we must have a plague of large mice, I rang the pest department of the local council.

A lady appeared the next day who said we had rats. I felt very ashamed and upset. It was worse than being told that your children had nits in their hair or that a burglar had been sitting through your underclothes. The lady went on to explain that they lived in the sewers and asked if I'd got a cap in my chamber? It sounded faintly gynaecological until I realised that she was talking about the drains. Visions of rats swimming up into the lavatories like the alligators in New York filled me with alarm. Anyway, she put down some poison and left.

Two days later a gentleman arrived. Rats, it appears, are men's business. He gave me his card. He was the Deputy Rodent Officer. He immediately reassured me that I had got a cap in my chamber. What a relief! He spoke with authority and relish.

boards. What about the smell. I wondered? The council had an answer to that too: Rodent Deodorant, which they would put down. Then my only worry was that Albert might have been Albertine - and fertile.

The next day Albert surfaced: a small furry rat, sitting quietly by the kitchen stove. After the initial shock of meeting him face to face, I couldn't bring myself to kill him. I telephoned my friend at the council. He was out but they would send someone down to deal with the rat.

The boss himself arrived, accompanied by a benchman. I am not sure if he was Chief Rodent Officer or perhaps Rodent General: an older man with a red face, watering eyes and a distinct beary smell. Albert had, of course, disappeared by then. We peered under the stove with a stick. An appalling and stinking debris of filth shot out but no Albert. We then tackled the gas boiler and airing cupboard. The stick produced an even more embarrassing mess

and lots of rat droppings. By now the boss was convinced I was swarming with rats. The hunt was on. "Fetch a mirror," he croaked. Heaving himself right inside the cupboard, he peered round with mirror and torch. After much heavy breathing he gave a triumphant yell. "Hand me the gun, Bert." Bert fumbled in his canvas bag and produced an evil looking pistol with a silencer. At least that is what it looked like to me. I feared the cupboard might shatter or the neighbours think I was being attacked by Elymas. However, I was relieved to see that it was loaded with an air gun pellet.

The boss wedged himself back inside the cupboard, leant over the boiler and shot. "Got him," he choked. But there was no dying squeal. I was not surprised. I was quite convinced he'd shot an old pair of my husband's socks that had fallen down behind the boiler.

Later that evening I went into the kitchen. There was Albert sitting miserably beside the fridge, dying of internal haemorrhages caused by the poison. I still couldn't kill him. The door bell rang. In the excitement of small game hunting I'd completely forgotten that my brother-in-law, an ex-naval commander, was coming for the night. Just the man. He strode into the kitchen, picked up Albert by the tail and gave him a firm blow with a hammer.

Next day the Deputy Rodent Officer came to examine the corpse. Albert was definitely a male, a fine young rat of about seven months - and there was no sign of a pellet. Unfortunately, the council has no rodent incinerator so the corpse, duly wrapped, is now in the dustbin. RIP Albert. I only hope my friends will come and stay.

Advertisement for 'GROWL BARK WHINE GROWL YELP!' featuring a dog named Mike. Includes text: 'BARK GROWL Dear Fans, YELP BARK WOOF BARK GROWL WHINE I am sorry I can't pad over to your beautiful country so you BARK PANT WHINE YELP GROWL BARK WOOF BARK GROWL could see me in person. But the authorities were going to lock me up! For six months! I mean WOOF BARK GROWL BARK WHINE PANT GROWL BARK YELP would they do this to Nick Nolte, Bette Midler or Richard Dreyfuss? Would they put them in PANT WOOF GROWL BARK GROWL BARK WHINE YELP BARK quarantine? No. As I was barking to my psychiatrist only this morning, this kind of treatment BARK GROWL PANT WHINE YELP BARK WOOF BARK GROWL could leave permanent scars. But I don't like to whine. Go see my latest movie, GROWL PANT WHINE BARK WOOF Down and Out in Beverly Hills. You'll find it a real howl. GROWL PANT Yours pantingly, Mike' and 'DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS' by Mike Nichols.

Advertisement for 'TAKE TO THE SKIES' magazine. Includes text: 'In the July issue: * Testing the Wellington bomber * The Air War over Vietnam * French Block 220 * Flying circus memories' and 'AEROPLANE Britain's leading aviation enthusiasts' magazine'.

THE TIMES DIARY

Talking to Tambo?

Will the government talk to exiled African National Congress leader Oliver Tambo when he arrives in Britain to address the Royal Commonwealth Society on Monday? Until now Tambo has been *persona non grata* for ministers because the ANC has refused to renounce violence. A Foreign Office aide, however, met an ANC delegation in Lusaka earlier this year. Now, with the urgent need to act over South Africa, the mood in Whitehall is changing. For the first time the government is considering the advantage of a meeting with Tambo as a way of buying time and approval while Mrs Thatcher dithers over sanctions. Yesterday, the ANC office in London said Tambo would be "more than happy" to hold such talks. Linda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, would, by both rank and inclination, be the most likely candidate to do the honours.

Red peril

At least Labour can unite around the issue of South Africa. Or can it? Militant launched a "Labour movement call to action" at the Commons yesterday by calling on Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley to stop their support for "liberal capitalists" in South Africa, and back the ANC. What Derek Hutton, Dave Nellist and Terry Fields will have seen as keen to mention is that Militant's own campaign front organization on the issue, the South African Labour Education Programme, has been cold-shouldered by the ANC, which sensibly wants to avoid being identified with Trotsky.

Flag waiver

No sooner does Labour sweep back into power at Brent Council than its chief executive, Michael Richard, decides to quit. After six years in the London borough, he moves in September to green and pleasant Gloucestershire, where he has been appointed chief executive of the (hung) county council. He pooh-poos speculation that he has grown weary of the antics of the "loony left", whose latest stunt has been to fly the African National Congress flag over the Town Hall. "As a matter of fact I'm staring out of the window at it now", he told me calmly yesterday, when I rang him. "I have served councils of most political shades and it's never worried me." A true pro.

● The Archbishop of Canterbury is planning to spend the whole of next Lent in retreat at All Souls College, Oxford. Does All Souls' food really constitute an appropriate Lenten penance?

Fallback

It may look wonderful but, as London swelters, guess which high-tech building's air-conditioning is on the blink? The building streamed out of Lloyd's of London in search of electric fans yesterday. "We can't put the air-conditioning on full until the building is completely occupied," said a spokesman.

Cook's advisory

The Catering Advisory Committee of Perth, Western Australia, is trawling Europe for 100 chefs to help man the city's fleet of restaurants for the America's Cup contest this winter. Perth expects half a million visitors during the four months of Cup races and can't find enough home-grown chefs to meet the challenge.

Odd bod

The government quango, the Economic and Social Research Council, has made a bit of a hash of a tribute to one of its former members who has died. An *erratum* slip in its latest newsletter points out that the obituary should have referred to him as "gentle and diffident" — not "gentle and different".

Unstuck

I understand that the Federation of Conservative Students has been rehabilitated to the extent of being invited back to No 10. Mrs Thatcher restored the tradition of an annual chat with the FCS national committee earlier this week — last year's having been cancelled amid an inquiry into the behaviour of its members. Vice-chairman Steve Nicholson and colleague David Getty nearly spilt it, however. Hoping for a pitocall, they were secretly clutching "Usher" says "No" stickers, ready to plant on their laps before smiling for the camera. But no photographer showed up.

Off-limits

London's cabbies are planning a guerrilla campaign to fight the pedestrianization of Oxford Street, rumoured to be ready for unveiling on Tuesday by Westminster City Council and the Oxford Street traders' association. The question most frequently asked of cabbies by tourists is "We're going shopping, where do we go?" They are duly taken to Oxford Street. But no longer. Arnold Sandler, chairman of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association tells me "We will recommend Knightsbridge, Kensington, Edgware Road and many other nice shopping areas instead". Thus starved of trade, the thinking runs, the Oxford Streeters will be forced to drop the scheme. If it does go ahead, warns Sandler, "Oxford Street would become a windy parade, like Leicester Square". PHS

Writing off a second chance

David Walker sees the threat to Birkbeck College as part of a government assault on higher education generally

The fate of Birkbeck College in the University of London is a shame and a political embarrassment. Lord Young, the Employment Secretary, and Kenneth Baker, at Education, speak approvingly of opportunities for adults to return to the classroom and lecture hall to change careers. Birkbeck specializes in adult part-time education. Yet it faces so severe a cut in its budget that it says it may have to close.

If Birkbeck College were to go to the wall, it would be a blow to the Labour Party political philosopher, Ben the historian of Attlee and Dalton) the cut in its grant might just, in these politicized times, be understandable. The government, disliking both socialism and its putative cousin, social science, would applaud the decision of the University Grants Committee to cut Birkbeck's income in real terms by 30 per cent between now and 1989.

But that would do nothing, Birkbeck is as much the home of conservatives such as economist Professor Robin Marter and *The Spectator's* own Roger Scruton. It is, more to the point, an academic institution teaching a full range of courses in science and the humanities of certifiable academic distinction and zero political controversy. It teaches them relatively cheaply. Its customers are mainly aspiring and energetic adults willing to give up their own time and money to the business of self-improvement. As its staff point out, a latter-day Samuel Smiles would surely applaud.

The fate of Birkbeck seems to have been determined by ac-

cident, and that is even more disturbing than any conspiracy. Neither the UGC nor the government appears to have willed a financial crisis on Birkbeck. In principle its fate lies in the hands of the court or governing body of the University of London, which is responsible for the allocation of money to constituent colleges. The university says Birkbeck's demise is a by-product of the financial squeeze.

Birkbeck is not unique. Higher education policy making has in recent years been a chapter of accidents. Although the government had said it wanted more science and technology students, the UGC in 1981 reserved its severest cuts for such universities as Aston and Salford, specialists in applied science.

It is in the context of talk by education ministers in favour of continuing and part-time education and second chances for adults that Birkbeck's cut looks so bad. The UGC has produced a scheme that will, within two years, force the college's closure unless its authorities increase fees or lay off personnel or in some other way (in the staff's estimation) fundamentally alter its character.

That character is anomalous within the university world. Founded in the 1820s, the college's ambition was to educate students in the "principles of the arts they practise and in the

various branches of science and useful knowledge" — poignant phrases in the light of the government's ambitions to make higher education more vocationally attuned.

Birkbeck became a specialist provider of courses for people in work: its lectures and seminars taking place largely in the evening. During the educational boom of the 1960s it considered becoming a more conventional institution and made moves, for example, to take on postgraduates and engage in research. But its undergraduate education retains a peculiar character. It is the only institution in higher education apart from the Open University dedicated to part-time degrees for adults.

The UGC sought to rationalize spending patterns between the universities (something enjoined by all the government-approved efficiency studies of recent years). It determined that part-time undergraduate education should be paid for on a single formula, applicable to universities where part-time provision is small and marginal as much as to Birkbeck. The one chosen will cut the amount of money Birkbeck has for each student — from 80 per cent of the amount allowed full-timers, to 50 per cent.

The UGC, leaving nothing to chance, also recommended that Birkbeck reduce its student numbers (denominated as "full-time

equivalents") from 2,317 in 1985-86 to 1,387 by 1989-90. Background factors worth bearing in mind include the UGC's judgement (stoutly resisted by Birkbeck staff, naturally) that five of its subject areas rank as below average, four are average and two are better than average. Birkbeck, according to this classification, merits no stars. In addition, most Birkbeck students pay their fees themselves and, except those who are unemployed, pay income tax.

Birkbeck could try to break even by raising its fees by 250 per cent: it could try to buck the UGC and increase the number of its students, increasing lecture and seminar sizes. The former would choke off demand, says Birkbeck. The latter, even if it were permitted, would degrade the quality of education on offer. The college could also try to slough off its postgraduate and research work. None of this can easily be reconciled with the government's professed enthusiasm for second-chance education.

The UGC is not to blame. It makes its judgements on standard academic criteria within financial limits set by the government, which has suggested no other norms for dividing up the money. As for lower cost part-time education, the Open University, which is directly controlled by the Department of Education and Science, has suffered financial reductions as severe as those imposed on the other universities.

The conclusion must be that the British government, alone in the western world, wants less higher education. Birkbeck is merely an institutional victim of that policy.

David Watt
Empty gesture with a point

What is happening to British public opinion over South Africa? Is anything much happening at all? It is a striking result of the recent Harris opinion poll on the subject that even now no more than 50 per cent can be found to say that South Africa ought to be occupied, which sanctions are proposed which involve the pre-occupation of ordinary people, they are not notably keen on them. A ban on sporting links with South Africa is opposed by 68 per cent and on air links by 64 per cent; 70 per cent say they still buy goods labelled "South African".

The conclusion from these figures is that two thirds of the great British public is not greatly concerned one way or the other. They may mutter "Isn't it terrible?" as they watch the television pictures, but it all seems pretty remote. The exceptions — who include the politicians, the media, the churches, the liberal intelligentsia and the 1.2 million Britons who are estimated to have family links with South Africa — may mind very much and may have powerful voices, but numerically they are still in a fairly small minority.

Why do so many of this group care quite so passionately, and why are so many of them wedded to the idea of sanctions? Why should they be so much more morally agitated about repression in South Africa, disgusting as it is, than about repression in a dozen other countries, not least the Soviet Union?

Has racial persecution under President Botha any genuine claim to be considered more morally objectionable in principle than political persecution under Pol Pot or religious persecution under the Ayatollah Khomeini? Why should people who insist on black majority rule in South Africa be perfectly prepared to countenance the constitutions of Belgium or Fiji, which reserve rights for specific racial groups?

I would tentatively answer these questions under three headings — historical, political and practical. Historically, the reverse side of British imperialism was always a liberal concern for the "subject peoples". In the case of the African empire this has had a particularly strong moral tinge. The generous enthusiasm of the anti-slavery movement, the zeal of the Anglican missionary, the paternalist exertions of the District Officer all have their echoes in what is being said today. A lingering sense of real responsibility, even guilt, survives in British attitudes to Southern Africa — and, of course, the racial situation in modern Britain ensures that emotional sensitivity is constantly renewed.

Politically, the South African issue is extremely awkward for the government. It splits the Conservative Party. It obliges Mrs Thatcher to display her characteristic virtues — dislike of hypocrisy and concern for national interests — in the most un-

sympathetic light. Conversely, it unites Labour in a virtuous posture which carries almost no political cost. Most potential Labour voters cannot appreciate the real cost of sanctions in terms of British jobs and services, and as long as whites are not being killed in large numbers there is no anti-black backlash in the working men's clubs to worry about. No wonder Messrs Kinnock and Healey are making the most of it.

Practically, the most powerful rationale for a deeper preoccupation with South Africa is the belief that by taking action you can actually change the behaviour (say, the Russians) we are simply beating our heads against a brick wall. This notion underlies the conclusions of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group. It happens, in my opinion, to be completely wrong.

Sanctions are not invariably pointless, but in the South African case there is no reason to suppose that an African government would abandon what it sees as its vital interests under external pressure, any more than the Israeli or the Soviet — government would do.

The trouble is that it is psychologically almost impossible for most would-be policy-makers to accept this proposition. They start from the position that "we can't just do nothing", for to do nothing would (a) expose them to charges of being "morally indifferent" and "passing by on the other side" and (b) cause unacceptable damage to relations with other countries who are determined that gestures must be made. So we decide we must make a gesture ourselves.

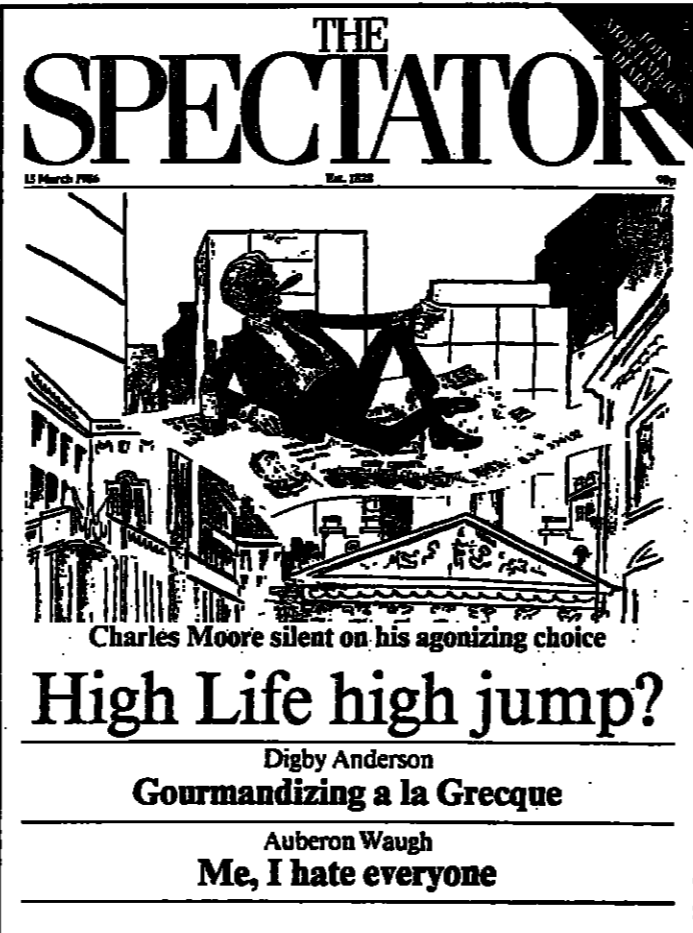
But how can we possibly explain that the gesture is empty? Human nature being what it is, we clutch at implausible reasons for the gesture being meaningless — that sanctions have already made Botha move (when everyone knows that the abolition of the pass laws had less sense of isolation will diminish black violence (when everyone knows that the ANC leadership has already lost control of what is happening in the townships).

The ingredients of this powerful brew could be drastically altered if there really is a bloodbath in South Africa, if our papers are filled with details of anti-white atrocities. Indifference could give way to near-racist outrage and liberal opinions to despair. But by that time the sanctions issue would have long been settled. Any British government, if absolutely forced to choose between its interests in South Africa and those in the rest of the world, will throw South Africa to the wolves.

We have far more to lose in the second instance. It is this consideration, rather than domestic political pressure, that will ultimately cause Mrs Thatcher to agree to further sanctions in August.

After the libel action, John Casey on Taki's barbed and wounding art

Malice in wonderland



Gossip columnists should invent — that is, they should invent characters to satirize real foibles, rather than invent foibles to wound real people. The first and subtlest gossip writers were Steele and Addison. Through Sir Roger de Coverley, a fictitious Tory squire, Addison with a deceptive gentleness brought into tolerant contempt a whole political class. Addison presented himself as the civilized urbane observer of a society which he knew intimately. He was not an outsider but a well-disposed critic. He linked journalism to a literary tradition that can be traced back to Horace.

The best columnists are still those — few in number — who actually know the people they write about, share most of their values, but have a good number of their friends.

Judged by these standards, Grovel of *Private Eye* has a less than sure touch. He was recently reduced to describing the antics in a London restaurant of an obscure East End solicitor who was involved in a fracas with his dining companion. It was reminiscent of Mr Chatterbox's dilemma in *Walter's Wile Bodies* when a libel case had made it impossible for him to describe anyone in *Society* at all. "In a single day Mr Chatterbox's readers find themselves plunged into a murky underworld of non-entity. They were shown photographs of the mis-shapen daughters of backwoods peers carrying buckets of meal to their fathers' chickens ... They heard of tea dances in Gloucester Terrace and jokes made at High Table by dons." (This is in fact not unlike the current gossip columns of certain present-day newspapers, with the BBC substituting for the Irish peerage.)

Most modern gossips feel that they have to describe real people. Taki seems to, but in fact he invents real people who do not exist. His characters have the names of real people but are a novelist's creations to which real names have been attached but who might equally have been called Mr Snerwell, Miss Winsome, or Lord Fatpurse. His world consists of people crying out to be made into characters, and Taki obliges.

It is a perilous activity in a world with libel laws, but the only point of a gossip column is to invent a world in which one can be interesting and amusing, and at the same time make a satirical

point. Few writers are capable of this, and they simply tell lies, because they lack the imagination to create fictions.

Taki, by contrast, is in the tradition of Addison, and writes moral essays under the guise of gossip. The world of monsters, arrivistes and vulgarities which he invokes, and in which he lives, gives readers of the *Spectator* week by week a wholly endurable sense of moral superiority. And he is artist enough to make a fictitious "character" out of himself — the boastful Greek who is always getting girls into trouble, the drunkard, the middle-aged man who regularly has to be bailed out by his rich father.

Take a typical Taki paragraph, written after his release from a three-month sentence in Pentonville for a drugs offence. "My, what a difference a season makes. Last winter, while languishing in North London, each day — as poor old Oscar put it — felt like a year, a year whose days are long. Now the opposite is true. I have

just spent 10 days in my favourite city and they flew by as fast as Mussolini's Alpine heroes fled when the Greek army counter-attacked in Albania in 1940. I guess it is the ultimate irony that good times fly, while bad times drag on."

Taki is unable to describe a visit to New York without mentioning at the same time his political sympathies and a sense of superiority that he, a Greek, affects to feel to the Italians. The whole performance is magnificent egotism.

So I am sorry that Taki lost the libel action brought against him. I am sorry also that in court he was reduced to making solemn speeches about Greek codes of honour. I had always supposed that being Greek was simply one of his agreeable fictions. He has certainly given every sign of despising the Greeks, referring to them (I seem to remember) as "bandy-legged". He also wrote that the Elgin Marbles should not be returned because the Greeks are unworthy of them. A man of such

sound instincts is obviously something more than a simple gossip columnist.

These reflections are prompted in part by my own recent disagreeable experience of being libelled in a well-loved satirical magazine. The case ended with a very satisfactory settlement, to me that is, inferior gossips lack any genuine satirical purpose, and therefore lend themselves easily to purely private malice. It is hard to claim that malice was entirely absent from the Taki column which led to this week's libel case, but extravagant malice is one of the extravagant conventions that make the Taki column so absurdly enjoyable. Besides, even Homer nods.

Journalists complain tirelessly that the English-libel laws are "ferocious". Yet the truth is that to carry through an action for libel is a tedious experience. One is surrounded by the faint-hearted who ceaselessly point out the perils. If one is not rich (and libel is certainly a game only for the rich) one faces the prospect, if one goes to court and loses, of financial ruin. The uncertainty is increased by the extraordinary blind-man's bluff of "payments into court", according to which if one gets even a pound less than one's opponents have paid in one has to pay their costs. One also becomes obsessed with the case, and a bore to one's friends. The sad case of Dickens's Miss Slysie, who consumed her life haunting the Court of Chancery looking for justice, always beckons from the wings. So I have some sympathy for Mrs Marcie-Riviere too.

For outsiders, however, the Taki case has added to the stock of harmless pleasure. People were given the opportunity to feel superior to a lot of unpleasantly rich Greeks and yet to sympathize with Mrs Marcie-Riviere as (very becomingly) she dabbled her eyes in court. Charles Moore, editor of the *Spectator*, was given his day in court (which the settlement in my own case denied him). The appearance of a genuine English gentleman in the midst of this galère was a fine dramatic touch.

One thing remains troubling: Taki Theodoropoulos will surely not persuade people to use "cautamine" as a term for a wine water, in place of the more familiar "Gymnede".
Dr Casey, a Cambridge don, was recently awarded substantial damages in a libel case against *Private Eye*.

Yankee stay out—Mexico says it again

Mexico City One of the more curious staging posts on the Mexico City tourist itinerary is the Museum of Intervention. The museum, in a former convent, keeps a minute, religious record of every US intervention on Mexican soil since the early 19th century.

Particular attention is given to the Mexican-American war of 1846. A roomful of flags, bayonets, engravings and pictures of blood-stained heroes recalls the advance of the US army from the port of Vera Cruz to Mexico City. The subsequent surrender, recalled as the most bitter episode in post-colonial Mexican history, led to the secession of what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico and part of Texas to the United States. Shaded maps all over the museum walls offer a reminder of what every Mexican all too painfully knows, that were it not for "Yankee" aggression Mexico would today be twice the size of the United States instead of the other way around.

The total number of US interventions in Mexico, most of them barely a footnote in US history, is said to be 163 — a figure Mexican schoolchildren learn from an early age. From reading the Mexican press recently one might imagine

that No 164 had just taken place. Anti-US rage has dominated the political pages as much as World Cup fever has the sports.

At a widely-publicized Senate sub-committee hearing in Washington last month, State Department hard man Elliott Abrams and other officials launched into what Mexican officials called a "Mexico-bashing" exercise, accusing the Mexican government of corruption, drug trafficking and electoral fraud.

Many Latin American governments would have wilted before such an assault — founded in large measure on Washington's frustration at Mexican intractability on the Central American problem. Some might even have fallen. As any Mexican will tell you, are true. But the attack has united the country's political forces behind President Miguel de la Madrid played and his ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), presenting the government with an opportunity to act with authority and distract attention from what is popularly perceived to be an abnormal third and a half years in power. Facing the worst economic crisis of its 57 years of uninterrupted rule, the PRI would never have believed that the

American right of all people, would come to the rescue. And precisely at a time when building on World Cup passions, the PRI leaders, it has been learnt, had decided to draw on Mexican nationalism — which is synonymous with anti-Americanism — as the central strategy in its aim to keep popular discontent at bay.

The government's most fierce opponents on the left have marched with PRI congressional deputies in anti-US rallies. Left-wing magazines have been leaping to the government's defence.

What Washington cannot understand is that, precisely because of its history of American interventions, Mexico cannot possibly support President Reagan in his attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Yes, but Mexico could keep quiet, people in Washington might argue. Even that is out of the question because calculated anti-Americanism has proved to be a key ingredient over the years in the PRI's shrewd retention of power.

To Washington's bewilderment, Mexico over the past few years has voiced against the United States in the United Nations more often than any other country outside the Soviet bloc. The fact is that in

Mexico foreign policy is simply another element of internal politics. Applying the cold logic of power, the PRI has learnt to draw strength from passions that all Mexicans feel.

Mexico City's Museum of Intervention is a neat manifestation of these raw anti-American feelings, founded on resentment not just at a history of military bullying, political meddling, economic domination and cultural penetration, but also, tragically, on a deep-rooted sense of racial inferiority. Joined by a 2,000-mile border, the Mexicans and Americans, it has been said, are trapped in a marriage without possibility of divorce, a marriage in which the Mexicans are doomed always to play the role of the weaker partner. Any US attempt to exploit that weakness will always harden the Mexicans' resistance.

There is a paradox, however, in all this. Without knowing it, those in Washington who so furiously lash out at the Mexicans are helping, in the end, to achieve what is, unquestionably, the overwhelming goal of US policy in Mexico — to keep the country unified and stable.

John Carlin

moreover... Miles Kingston

Rage against the dying of the light

Thanks to the *Moreover* computer, cricket writing has been enlivened recently by contributions from such worthy writers as Raymond Chandler and Lewis Carroll. Today we are lucky enough to get a cricket report from the one and only Dylan Thomas.

First Commentator: It is early morning, slow-dawning day here at the ground. Stumps lie in dumps, bails lie in bales, and the nets are slack and empty. Listen, All you can hear is the popping of the popping crease. A seagull overshoots the ground and crashes on yesterday's sandwiches. Down the rich green kingdom of the outfield there is nothing but grass. If you listen carefully, you can hear it growing.

Second Commentator: And we'll hear that again in slow motion. First Commentator: Listen. It is early morning, years before the match starts, and there is dew in the air, dew on the ground, dew everywhere. It will be a slow-turning, slow burning, quick-learning wicket. On the pitch, ghosts of former English captains inspect the turf.

First ghost: I would put them in. Second ghost: I would start the batting myself, and be 190 not out by lunch. Third ghost: I would make sure of winning the toss first, for which I always had my lucky double-headed coin.

Second Commentator: Listen. It is nearly time to start now. Behind the scoreboard, the man who controls the numbers is giving them drills. Scoreboard man: 2 was very lazy yesterday. This must not happen again. First Commentator: Listen. The heavy roller is rolling, the umpire is trying on his white coat for surgical decisions, and in the cheap seats little Miss Muffet is preparing for her streak across the pitch at lunch-time. Miss Muffet: I only want them to bring Ian Botham back!

Second Commentator: Have you been sent a cake by a listener, then? First Commentator: I have that. It is full of cherries, and baked with love. Second Commentator: Who's a lucky boy, then? First Commentator: Meanwhile, in the pavilion, the Very Reverend

Cuthbert Millinder is getting into place for start of play. He has sat in the same seat since 1946. *Seen Rev Millinder:* One day in 1961 I found a man sitting in my seat. He was wearing the tie of an inferior regiment and eating potato crisps, so I told him sharply that the seat was reserved for the Bishop, and he left reluctantly. He has never come back, though I have been keeping an eye open for him ever since.

First Commentator: And the Very Reverend Millinder stares out at the pitch which he has not been able to see properly since 1969. Pigeons strut on the grass, sparrows turn goggles in the air and a small spider sets off to cross the ground, unaware he has three days walk in front of him.

Second Commentator: In a small room, the two umpires give each other a final check. First umpire: Got your six coins? Second umpire: Got your funny white hat? First umpire: Got your spare sweater for cold bowlers? Second umpire: Got your big shiny finger to stick in the air? First umpire: Then let's go and inspect the pitch, and see if it's still there.

First Commentator: In the stands the crowd is assembling, if you can call seven hundred dead quiet people a crowd. Let us go among them and hear their inner thoughts. Spectator: Can't see England winning this one, Jim. Second Commentator: Let us, on second thoughts, not go among them. Let us instead watch the two opening batsmen stride, calm as archbishops, to the altar of the pitch, to celebrate God's holy game.

Batsman: Play carefully to begin with, then? Second Batsman: Yes. And when your eye is in ... we go into a defensive shell. Second Batsman: Yes. Then after that ... Batsman: ... go in for lunch. Second Batsman: Yes. First Commentator: So the umpire gives guard, like a priest dispensing guarded blessings, and the bowler charges in like a train forgetting to stop at a station ... Second Commentator: And play for the day has finally started.

The Church of England, like an army in the field, is now making its calculations of risk. It is faced with the prospect of casualties if it goes much further towards the ordination of women.

How neat and simple it would be if the breakdown in agreed procedures for carrying out the business of local authorities could be ascribed to a new extreme-minded element within the Labour Party.

A more satisfying narrative would take in the expansion of local authority functions and the grandiosity of the municipal empire built up during the 1960s and 1970s.

The monolingual Briton abroad is a much-ridiculed stereotype. Either he bawls instructions in pidgin English at his unfortunate foreign interlocutor, or he stands red-faced and tongue-tied.

Whether extending the range of languages on offer to school pupils is feasible, however, is another matter. One of the arguments in favour of large comprehensive schools was the possibility of providing more generously for so-called minority subjects.

The stereotype tends to obscure the fact that Britain also produces some of the best linguists in the world. The failure lies in the inability of our education system to provide the less linguistically able with the means of expressing themselves in another tongue.

This deficiency has now been recognized in a draft policy statement issued by the Department of Education and Science. The statement goes a long way towards diagnosing the problems of the reluctance of school pupils, especially boys, to study foreign languages.



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1986

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Acorns to oaks on the job scene

From Mr James Pilditch Sir. While the findings of Sir Austin Bide's Occupations Study Group may make gloomy reading...

Sex education From the General Secretary of the Family Planning Association Sir. Lord Buckmaster's letter (June 16) makes misleading allegations about sex education...

Capital warships From Admiral Sir Ian Easton Sir. Colonel Wythe's letter (June 7) does a neat job of standing reason on its head.

'Outside' governors From Mr Dick H. Pantlin Sir. In continental Europe there are many British schools which owe their existence and success to boards composed of businessmen and women...

Cleaning up From Mr George Bird Sir. If tin mining is to cease in Cornwall the question arises, what is to be done with the redundant workforce?

Signs of the times From Mr Martin Hime Sir. There are many amusing abbreviated road signs in America.

Face to face From Mr J. C. Benson Sir. How nice it would be if people would revert to the practice of looking at each other when shaking hands...

Keeping up with French railways

From the Director of InterCity Sir. All major railways maintain close international contacts - and are very interested in their counterparts' innovations.

Scottish exhibition From the President of the Royal Scottish Academy Sir. I refer to Ronald Faux's report (June 16) about the inflatable tubes destined to adorn the Royal Scottish Academy building in Edinburgh this summer.

Ordination of women From Mr E. R. Gaskill Sir. May I comment on the letter of Rabbi Jonathan Romain and Rabbi Sybil Sheridan (June 10)?

Too many books From Mr John G. Welford Sir. Mrs McDonald's letter (June 12) reminds me of the time when, some years ago, I was working as a very junior assistant in the acquisitions section of a large university library.

Wimbledon fifty years ago From a Correspondent Those who sit and watch by the centre court at Wimbledon this year can have no idea of the conditions prevailing for the Lawn Tennis Championships 50 years ago (1881).

Widdicombe review would take all this in. The Widdicombe committee has been modest and reticent. It has made scant reference to the changed political and administrative context of local government in the 1980s.

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THE CHOICE FOR THE CHURCH

The Church of England, like an army in the field, is now making its calculations of risk. It is faced with the prospect of casualties if it goes much further towards the ordination of women.

The Church is simply and profoundly divided. And as a consequence of that division the Church of England is faced for the first time in three centuries with questions about the meaning and purpose of its very existence.

To some this would be an unalloyed disaster. The part review would take all this in. The Widdicombe committee has been modest and reticent.

MORE ADMINISTRATION, LESS POLITICS

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A more satisfying narrative would take in the expansion of local authority functions and the grandiosity of the municipal empire built up during the 1960s and 1970s.

BEYOND THE PHRASEBOOK

The monolingual Briton abroad is a much-ridiculed stereotype. Either he bawls instructions in pidgin English at his unfortunate foreign interlocutor, or he stands red-faced and tongue-tied.

This deficiency has now been recognized in a draft policy statement issued by the Department of Education and Science. The statement goes a long way towards diagnosing the problems of the reluctance of school pupils, especially boys, to study foreign languages.

The measures proposed to remedy the defects, however, are less convincing. That more pupils should study a foreign language at school for longer, that more attention should be paid to communicating in the language and that there should

explain. It would, in short, propel the Church of England towards the status of a sect. This has to be set against this week's warning from the synod committee that a split in the church might lead to the disestablishment of either part or both.

The Church of England would be well advised to refer back to its origins and to the nature of the social compact with English society which its existence implies.

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ON THIS DAY

JUNE 20 1981

Somewhat short of money, the All England Croquet Club in the 1870s added the words 'Lawn Tennis' to its title and several grass courts to its facilities.

WIMBLEDON FIFTY YEARS AGO

Those who sit and watch by the centre court at Wimbledon this year can have no idea of the conditions prevailing for the Lawn Tennis Championships 50 years ago (1881).

From Wimbledon Station there was a long walk along the footpath by the railway to the grounds of the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, in Worple-road.

The seating accommodation for the centre court consisted of two rows of wooden forms, supplemented, I believe for the first time, by a small, covered stand on one side.

For the benefit of your readers can I confirm what is implied in the text of the report, namely, that the exhibition concerned does not involve the academy itself.

The tubes seem likely to become a talking point in artistic and other circles in the coming months and I thought it desirable that the academy's formal position - or rather non-position - on the matter should be understood.

There is no objection to women being ordained rabbis, because we believe that they are meant to exercise their gift as teachers, for which they are specially endowed.

The functions of men and women are equal but different and ought not to be confused. To do otherwise is to inhibit the development of true vocations for both men and women.

We like 'Miss Bridge', which is intended to direct the wary traveller over that famous river in New Orleans.

There are many amusing abbreviated road signs in America.

How nice it would be if people would revert to the practice of looking at each other when shaking hands, and not at a camera.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE June 19: The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Sir Frank Gresham, former Bailiff of Jersey, has been reappointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Guernsey.

Memorial meetings

Lord Shirwell, CH The Prime Minister was present at a memorial meeting for Lord Shirwell, CH, held in the House of Lords yesterday.

Birthdays today

Professor Arthur Bell, 60; Lord Brightman, 75; Miss Catherine Cookson, 80; Miss Wendy Craig, 52; the Earl of Cranbrook, 53; Alan Fisher, 64; Sir Thomas Gore-Brown, 68; Mr Ronald Hines, 57; Mr R.P. Hornby, 64; Mr Alan Lamb, 32; Mr Johnny Morris, 70; Sir David Muir, 70; Mr Paul Robert, 60; Mr Budge Rogers, 47; Sir Arthur Rucker, 91; Professor Sir Richard Southwood, 55; Mr Justice Tudor Evans, 66; the Right Rev John Waime, 56.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM 24 157 MAT (minimum 1 line) Announcements, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to: THE TIMES PO BOX 404 Virginia Street London E1

Deaths

SOUYAVE - On June 13th at Kings College Hospital, to Laura and Joel, a son, Louis Frederick. TWIST - On June 15th to Claire (nee Wolfenden), a daughter, a sister to Eleanor and Geoffrey.

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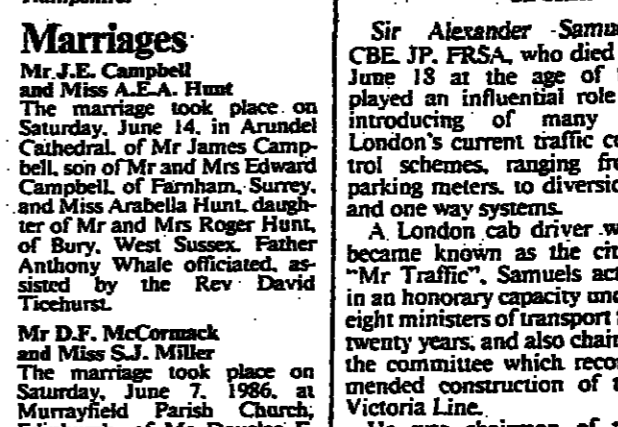
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Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.B. Schroder and Miss S.C. Leskey The engagement is announced between Timothy Bruno, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Schroder, of Curry Rivel, Somerset, and Ellen Charlotte, daughter of Sir Denis and Lady M.J. Sidford, of Loders, Bridport, Dorset.

OBITUARY

SIR ALEXANDER SAMUELS Tackling London's traffic problem



Sir Alexander Samuels, CBE, JP, FRSA, who died on June 18 at the age of 80, played an influential role in introducing many of London's current traffic control schemes, ranging from parking meters to diversions and one way systems.

Sale room

Rich pickings in silver market

The silver market took light at Sotheby's yesterday. It was not a well attended sale but a few very rich men had decided that they wanted the unusually fine pieces on offer and prices went through the roof.

MR GEORGE HATHERILL

Mr George Hatherill, CBE, who died on June 17 at the age of 87, was from 1954 to 1964, Commander of the CID at Scotland Yard.

Luncheons

East European Trade Council Lord Shackleton, Chairman of the East European Trade Council, presided at a luncheon given yesterday at the Goring Hotel in honour of Mr T. Antalpester and members of his delegation to the UK/Hungarian Joint Commission.

Novice sweeps the board

A newcomer to pelargonium growing has scooped many of the major trophies at the British Pelargonium and Geranium Society's national exhibition, held in Westminster earlier this week.

Reception

Charter Group Partnership The Charter Group Partnership was launched formally at a reception and buffet luncheon at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales on Thursday.

Service dinners

HMS Mercury Admiral Sir Richard Fitch, Second Sea Lord, was the guest of honour at a mess dinner held last night at Lydney House, H.M. Coastguard, Commander P.G. Edger presided.

Diners

National Association of Health Authorities The annual dinner of the National Association of Health Authorities was held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, yesterday.

St George's House Windsor Castle

General Sir Hugh Beach is retiring after five years as warden. Mrs Rosalind Gilmore, director of personal banking at the National Giro Bank, has been appointed director from September 1. Dr John Long has been appointed acting warden for 1986/87.

University news

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THE ARTS



Television
Carving out a revival

In the story of the Jamaican primitive painter, Kaze the final programme in the Caribbean Nights (BBC2) sequence drew together all the dark strains in West Indian culture. Voodoo and paganism evidently still have the power to terrify Europeans. Fear of African idol-worship led by their slaves throughout the islands. In consequence no genuine visual art existed in Jamaica before the 1920s. Even in the lifetime of this elderly artist, the dread of superstition remained so great that he was once imprisoned on suspicion of being an Obeah man.

Kapo is also Bishop Mallica Reynolds, the head of a small Christian revivalist cult. His habit of carving heavy tropical wood for long hours eventually cost him his legs, both of which were amputated because the circulation was damaged. Kapo's carvings clearly evoke the tribal art of Africa's West Coast. His paintings are reminiscent of Rousseau, although, as the curator of the National Gallery pointed out, when a genuine primitive is perished a European cultural tourist it is evident where the real creative energy lies.

The church founded by the artist, after a revelation of God in glory under a cotton tree, uses rituals related to those of African religions. Several academics, including Jamaica's Prime Minister, stressed the importance of such revivalist cults in their society, in which they acted as an underground affirmation of black identity. The programme was beautifully directed by Nigel Finch, and began with a haunting aerial sequence of Kingston at night, all floodlit tennis courts, illuminated swimming pools, and candle-light in the artist's crowded laboratory.

The Caribbean Nights season did not claim to be a definitive portrait of West Indian culture. Instead it was a stunning collage of music, poetry, dance and images which succeeded in conveying the spirit of people and place. The opening five-hour presentation, anchored by Patricia Howe, was particularly impressive. Inevitably, the season was dominated by British-influenced territories, and Jamaica in particular, but no doubt there will be an opportunity to return and correct this imbalance.

Celia Brayfield

Jazz
Ray Charles
Festival Hall

Ray Charles, the jazz musician who all but invented soul music in the Fifties, is now assigned to the country division of his record label in America. As part of his "country" act he has been melding blues, gospel and R & B with a full-blown orchestral setting since the early Sixties, and when an artist who has both dominated and transcended so many categories of contemporary music with such a vast catalogue of material, performs a 50-minute set with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in town, it is a safe bet that the presentation will only scratch the surface at best.

Even so the RPO, conducted by Sidney Feller, were patently out of their depth. "Such a good bad", Charles said generously at the end, but their stiff-backed unfamiliarity with the warm, spontaneous nuances of Charles's music had contributed in large part to a bland and hesitant entertainment.

Charles, resplendent in a camel tuxedo and an onsize bow-tie, lurched up to his piano with a huge grin radiating beneath his impenetrable dark glasses. Looking more fragile than his 55 years would suggest, he sang a mixed collection of standards, and while his voice has lost some of its former strength, particularly in the upper register, it retains an extraordinarily rich and expressive timbre. This, together with Charles's inimitable jazz sense of timing and phrasing, maintained interest in a peculiar arrangement of "Eleanor Rigby" and a speeded-up version of "Take These Chains From My Heart" that really did sound like a country song.

Despite the orchestra's inability to join the swing, "Georgia on My Mind" found Charles singing with tremendous commitment, his legs writhing beneath the piano and his body seemingly consumed with the song's emotion. But, although it is his practice to eschew longer shows, this one seemed to have been too swiftly rehearsed and too briefly executed to do justice to such a great talent.

David Sinclair

Cinema

The fight that is never finished

The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo/A Portuguese Goodbye Everyman
King David (PG)
Odeon Haymarket

House (15)
Leicester Square Theatre;
Odeon Marble Arch

Silver Bullet
Cannons Haymarket,
Oxford Street

With South Africa reminding us daily that the threat to human rights is unremitting, the arrival of *The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo* is timely. Susana Munoz and Lourdes Portillo's moving, unpolished, first-hand account of courage in the face of massive repression was not surprisingly nominated for this year's Oscar for best documentary.

In the second half of the 1970s, 30,000 Argentinian citizens disappeared without trace. The military dictatorship said they were "subversives", a broad term which embraced people simply involved in charitable work among the underprivileged, or students of such suspect subjects as sociology, biology and political history. Few if any married the military's charges that they were terrorists and guerrillas. Many of the *desaparecidos* were children, most were under 30, and included pregnant women and nursing mothers. The Oscar-winning Argentinian feature, *The Official Story* exposed the practice of handing out the babies orphaned in this way to favoured supporters of the regime.

In time the Mothers were joined by others, until thousands of women appeared each week, to parade slowly round the square with their pictures and white head-scarves inscribed with the names of their lost ones. Most were middle-aged and politically uneducated, but they knew the risks: some were arrested and tortured, or themselves disappeared, for ever, and were ready to face harassment by the police and charges, of being mad or Marxist or both. Their demonstrations, at a time when few Argentinians dared speak out, were effective. National and international consciousness was stirred and the dictators were forced to restrain the wholesale disappearances.

In the film the women - some of whom have lost whole families and personally experienced torture - speak directly of their feelings and their fight. Munoz and Portillo

intercut other documents: news films of the women confronting policemen chosen for their size and ferocity; the dictators themselves, sanctimoniously denying or justifying, or filmed in the cathedral in ostentatious worship (the Church was little help to the Mothers); a former soldier who left the army in revulsion; a dreadful glimpse of retrieved corpses. A United States officer from the military academy where Argentinian top brass is trained speaks confidently of the task of promoting US "techniques and doctrines" - if we are to keep Latin America. Munoz and Portillo conclude with a sequence which shows women in other Latin American countries under military dictatorship taking up the example of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

The courage of the Mothers is uplifting, but the conclusion of the film is sad. The Falklands adventure brought down the dictators, yet after three years of democracy the Mothers still demonstrate. The leaders have been put on trial, but their underlings and the actual killers - men "only obeying orders" - go unpunished. The Army is still sacrosanct, and the Mothers' demands for justice, formerly called "subversive", are today dismissed as "destabilizing". The Mothers know that their *desaparecidos* will never come back.

The film plays in a double bill with *A Portuguese Goodbye*, an academic curiosity by the young Portuguese director Joao Botelho. All too evidently besotted with the Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu, Botelho has rashly attempted his own version of Ozu's masterpiece *Tokyo Story*. An old couple from the provinces go to the city to see their children for the last time before they die. The children try to be kind, but are preoccupied with their own lives and affairs; and the old relationships are eclipsed.

As in *Tokyo Story*, the couple find the closest sympathy not with their own offspring but with the widow of their dead son. The film intersperses memories of his death as a soldier in Portugal's last, tragic, airless colonial war. Botelho captures the melancholy of Ozu but not much of the poetry, though there is enough here to suggest a talent that will do better when it recovers from hero-worship.

Among the other achievements of King David's brief but glorious Israeli empire was the first writing of history. In consequence we have a more comprehensive biography of David as man and politician than of any other historical figure before him. It seems in fact rather too comprehensive for the writers of King David (Andrew Birkin and James Costigan), who diligently set out to tell the whole story but end up racing from incident to fragmentary incident, relying on commentary to fill in the gaps. The big moments are there - the slaying of Goliath, the battle of Gilboa, Bathsheba's bath and the revolt and



Back to the biblical epic: David (Richard Gere) falls for Bathsheba (Alice Krige), and meantime plans her husband's death, in *King David*

death of Absalom - but much between remains unexplained. There is some sense of the sly machinations of the Prophets, but little of David's inspired political manoeuvring, or the numerous diplomatic marriages which explain the dissensions of his heterogeneous family.

Jonathan, Bathsheba, Michal and even the minxish Absalom (Jean-Marc Barr) are only walk-ons whose relationships with David remain unexplored. The most commanding presence in the film is Edward Woodward's Saul, a mad, majestic desert ruler. Richard Gere labours at the main role, though it is better to avert the eyes when he girds his loins to dance for the Lord.

Having ranged from Barry McKenzie to *The Getting of Wisdom*, *Breaker Morant* and *Tender Mercies*, the director Bruce Beresford is clearly game for anything, and *King David* is as biblically epic (or war) serious and well-dressed. A lot more of the old De Mille flamboyance would have helped, though even De Mille might have jibbed at the absurdity of the robed stenographer who announces he is taking it all down for the Book of Samuel.

A phenomenon of film history is the resurgence of the horror movie in periods of momentous international anxiety. It happened in the period of European revolution after the First World War, and again during the great Depression of the early Thirties. It is perhaps significant that the most recent cycle still persists.

As might be expected from the original beguets of *Friday the 13th* (Sean Cunningham and Steve Miner, here respectively producer and director), their new horror film *House* shrewdly covers all its bets. It combines well-remembered formulae - the old dark house and the *House of Wax*-style vengeance "haunting" by a disgruntled psychopath - and throws in the hero's nightmare memories of Vietnam as well. It offers all the standard ghost-train frights, while sending up the genre enough to permit the young audience the illusion of sophisticated, tongue-in-cheek detachment from belief. The quality of the special effects is taken for granted. The alchemy worked for American audiences, and *House 2* is already in production.

The prolific novelist Stephen King now turns out his horrors in handy packs: *Silver Bullet* is adapted from a "novellette" about a sunny small town terrorized by a werewolf. It would hardly make a story at all if the grown-ups did not spin it out by tirelessly disbelieving the 11-year-old cripple hero who knows all, and if everyone concerned did not act with such reckless folly. But then, most horror films depend on parents like these, who helpfully take off for the weekend of the full moon, leaving the kids at the mercy of the monster and a boozing uncle. Daniel Atlas directs without any apparent awareness of the absurdity of his script.

David Robinson

Concerts
Exciting potential

**LS/Bawden/
Knussen**
Snake Maltings

To the varied list of pleasures which the London Sinfonietta is contributing to this Aldburgh Festival must now be added the rare delight of hearing the hecklephone. It was used in serious and dramatic fashion, too, both in Hans Werner Henze's 1981 work *Le Miracle de la rose* and in Rupert Bawden's *Le Livre de Faavel*, receiving its first performance.

The young composer bases his 18-minute piece on a celebrated medieval illuminated manuscript. That is not quite as esoteric an idea as it might seem, for the "Roman de Faavel" is a scathing satire that is still potent six hundred years on. The donkey Faavel represents the sins of Falstet, Avarice, Vainie and so forth. Consequently, monarchs and bishops revere him, and he rises to rule the world.

Bawden's scheme is simple: he unleashes the full force of his 17 players in a raging, complex-rhythmic polyphony, dominated by some rampant percussion writing, to represent civilization sinking into sin, as civilizations are wont to do. But he offers some crumbs of comfort - both to social optimists and to those who simply like quiet music - by setting two prayers (asking for goodness to pre-

vail) soothingly for the strings. There was much more in this diligently detailed score than will probably ever meet the ear, and some imaginative ideas needed more time to register than these breathless tableaux often allowed. Bawden, however, shows exciting potential, and his conducting of a well-prepared London Sinfonietta was exemplary. So too was the singing of Eileen Huise and Mary King, who negotiated the frantic melismas confidently, and gratefully seized the few chances for lyricism.

Le Miracle de la rose is Henze's second piece for "imaginary theatre", in which the instruments play characters in a surrealist drama. The "rose" - the heart of a teenager - is hunted and destroyed by figures of authority; an allegory which might symbolize many dark things. Most importantly, though, it is the catalyst for a highly original and impassioned clarinet concerto, full of superbly calculated theatrical gestures.

The eloquent soloist on instruments of three sizes, was Michael Collins, who gave especially expressive voice to the tender *cadenza* that interrupts the terrifyingly aggressive final climax. Oliver Knussen directed the work with the same control he had brought to Britten's Sinfonietta and Stravinsky's Eight Instrumental Miniatures.

Richard Morrison

Disturbing quirks

ECO/Ashkenazy
Barbican

After hearing the sensitive refinement of Perahia and Uchida in their playing of Mozart, it was a disappointment on Wednesday to hear Vladimir Ashkenazy's performance of that composer's D minor Piano Concerto, K466, with the English Chamber Orchestra.

Where the music should have been disturbed, instead his quirky view of it did. The first movement, for example, lacked the vital sense of urgency, partly because Ashkenazy produced a predominantly soft-edged tone, although the odd bar or two by contrast might be said to have stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb in these circumstances. One yearned for the kind of brilliancy that Solti showed in this work here last week: his was a gripping reading, for all its technical faults.

It is probably a relatively easy matter to hold the slow movement together, for this is catch of two simple opposites, the placid and the tem-

pestuous. But, just as in the same composer's Divertimento in D, K205, which the concert began, Ashkenazy's tendency (albeit a time-honoured one) was to deaden the impact of the outer sections by articulating too smoothly.

Dotted rhythms, for instance, almost became triplets, while there was little attention given to the inner detail of phrases. Fortunately, the stormy middle section was admirably dramatic, and it was probably the fault of the hall that at times the woodwind unconsciously drowned the soloist.

In general, the ECO played neatly, though in both of these works, as well as in the "Jupiter" Symphony, which Ashkenazy also conducted, one was always uncomfortably aware of a lamentable insecurity in the playing of the first horn (Alan Civil). It was a pity, too, that so many repeats were omitted. The finale consequently seemed like a brisk gambol rather than a movement of real stature; it was as if Ashkenazy could not wait to catch the next plane home.

Stephen Pettitt

Missing magic

RPO/Previn
Festival Hall

A complete (well, almost) *Midsummer Night's Dream* for a midsummer festival seems quite the most delightful idea. But on Wednesday the love-juice was off: even Mendelssohn's overture, let alone so many entrancing episodes we so rarely hear from the incidental music, passed without a single frisson.

The Royal Philharmonic, and particularly André Previn, certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves. The reason why I could not was almost entirely the result of Previn's reluctance to listen and to phrase, rather than simply cue in with his baton, what is, after all, one of the most felicitously phrased scores imaginable. Even the opening chords cannot tingle, if they are played merely as chords; and, even when there

are soloists of such eager willingness as Eva Lind and Christine Cairns, the fairy lullaby can lapse into jingle if its fragments and textures are not most meticulously judged.

It is all very well for the Wedding March to be allowed the indulgence of sounding like the Salvation Army on a good day. It is another matter when the Nocturne, again through slack, ill-considered phrasing, takes on the contours of one of their more mawkish ditties.

The white-jacket, easy-listening approach coursed through André Watts's slick but superficial performance of Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2. A festival environment need not, perhaps, be the excuse for cool, multi-purpose bravura; Liszt's transformations were too often met by virtuoso chain-reaction rather than being matched in imaginative recreation.

Hilary Finch

Herman
Old Red Lion

Stewart Conn's hero is a middle-aged academic who imprudently agrees to cram a student for her finals, which is one way of describing the mess he walks into. He may be Herman but whose man is he? His embittered wife and tenacious girlfriend battle this out, saying all the things people do say on these miserable occasions, with the wretched male stranded between them making lunging fist gestures inside his cardigan pockets until a convenient death lets him off the hook.

What periodically removes the piece from the world of "I love her in a different way" and "don't touch me" is the fact that Herman happens to be obsessed by the works of Melville, sometimes to the extent of believing himself to be the author of *Moby Dick*.

In the process of switching a narrative between past, present and inside the hero's head, Mr Conn takes some striking Pirandellian leaps; as where Herman winds up one Ahab speech in the role of neglected author auditioning for two film-studio lizards who tell him that *Jaws* has knocked the bottom out of the fish market. Even better, the same pair descend on him as menacing sub-librarians in pursuit of overdue books, and then grudgingly swallow his claim that he is Melville, and these defaced paperback are first editions annotated by the author.

Jeremy Kingston



Cyd Charisse: gracious old-time glamour as Lady Hadwell

Theatre
Charlie Girl
Victoria Palace

The umpteenth musical to open in the West End this season is the revival of this phenomenally successful "family show" from the Sixties. I dare say its charms are potent still.

An updated version of Cinderella, with the Prince (Mark Winton) a wealthy, self-loving American, the story enshrines the principle that if the English like a Lord they will love a Lady. *Charlie Girl* has four Ladies, including Charlie herself (Lisa Hull), otherwise Lady Charlotte Hadwell, who spends all her time oiling veteran cars in the motor museum of her mother's stately home and does not know about boys. Loyal Joe (Paul Nicholas) loves her but class-consciousness ties his tongue. Joe also does the Fairy Godmother bit of finding her a party dress that has to be handed back at an inconvenient moment. Underdressed, Charlie strips off and continues to dance in her mini-slip. Cinderella failed to think of that.

The show also finds room for two older performers, one English, one American. Twenty years ago these were played by Anna Neagle and Hy-Hazel; this time round the Texas-born Cyd Charisse has a go at the English aristocrat reduced to guiding nuns and schoolboys down her baronial corridors, and Dora Bryan plays the fond American mum. Any address in this casting soon becomes insignificant because what they are in the show to do is to bring old-time glamour and to dance.

In the first half Cyd Charisse dances gracefully though slowly against an impressive fountain the equal of anything at Bridesthead. At the climax she steps on to a plinth, and I am sorry to report that the plinth rises a yard or so into the air leaving her poised there, all statuesque. But in the second half she and Claudia Paul Henry do a much more interesting hip-rolling number, with honky-tonk obbligato from the wings, and we are able to marvel at her famously elegant legs.

This is a not a show that advances the art-form of the musical. Lights are dimmed when a song is to be sung so that a spot can follow the singer, who was perfectly well

A Midsummer
Night's Dream
Regent's Park

Although nothing destroys the spell of Shakespeare's magic forest more effectively than real trees, the *Dream* remains an indispensable item in the Regent's Park repertory. The deadlock seems insoluble, but last year Toby Robertson found a way out of it by presenting the play as a rough show by a strolling company who set up a couple of battered platforms and performed in total disregard of their pastoral surroundings. This production now returns in a recast version

(directed by David Conville and Emma Freud), and it works as well as ever. As before, its only serious weakness appears in the opening scenes, where the company are too busy being vagabond actors to get inside their Athenian roles, and attention is focused more on the playing convention than the play. With the arrival of Puck (Andrew Collins) from a prop basket, Shakespeare decisively takes over, and the robust magic of Sue Hodge's drum-majorite Peggiblossom and Diane Fletcher's spitfire Titania proves quite as potent as the ethereal variety.

With the exception of Carolyn Backhouse's Helena, almost seduced out of her anger

when Demetrius runs kisses up her arm, the lovers are an anonymous group where routines, however, are inventively directed. So, too, are those of the mechanicals who first come on as rock-bottom comics and proceed to get better and better, with the gigantic Bernard Bresslaw going up on his toes to represent the "tall" Pyramus, and Snug the joiner handing out business cards to the court.

It was equally in keeping with the show for one Elizabethan extra to announce "England 3, Paraguay 0"; and for all the trees to burst into light at the end, restoring the traditional spell of the place.

Irving Wardle

OSCAR WINNER
BEST ACTRESS
GERALDINE PAGE
"SHOULD BE AT THE TOP OF EVERY FILMGOER'S MUST SEE LIST... MISS PAGE BEIGNS TRIUMPHANT!"
What's On
"PAGE DESERVES EVERY SUPERLATIVE IN THE BOOK"
Sunday Times
THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL
The Screen on the Hill
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TICKETS £10.50
1000 SEAT THEATRE

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fine and medium quality, handmade
PERSIAN CARPETS
rugs and runners...

and others from the more important weaving centres of the East. Included are many antiques, silks, kelimis, nomads and other unusual items, not generally to be found on the home market.

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CBI names its young guides to the future

By David Young

The 19 young men and two young women selected to "draw the chart which British industry will use to navigate into the next century" were named yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry. They have instructions to come up with a vision of what they want to see happening in industry in the year 2010.

They will form a group of committees, and each will come up with their views on what products Britain should be making, how it should sell them and how people should be working and relating to new technologies.

Their first report will form the basis for discussions at this year's CBI conference in Bournemouth, and then they will continue to meet and supply the CBI Council with ideas and suggestions to improve every element of industrial performance.

The 21 were selected after being nominated by their companies or CBI regional staff, and have been drawn from a wide range of companies, covering most industrial sectors.

They include a farmer who also runs his family property business, and a teacher who is a deputy school head.

All are graduates and white, but yesterday their selection was defended by the CBI as being a true cross-section of British industrial and commercial life. Several have experience of dealing with industrial problems at shop-floor level.

One, Paul Cootes, who manages a supermarket chain food-production unit, said: "I have 600 people working with me, not 600 people working for me."

James Lupton, a solicitor and director of a merchant bank, said: "We have to decide how we want to live in the year 2010 and work out how to get there."

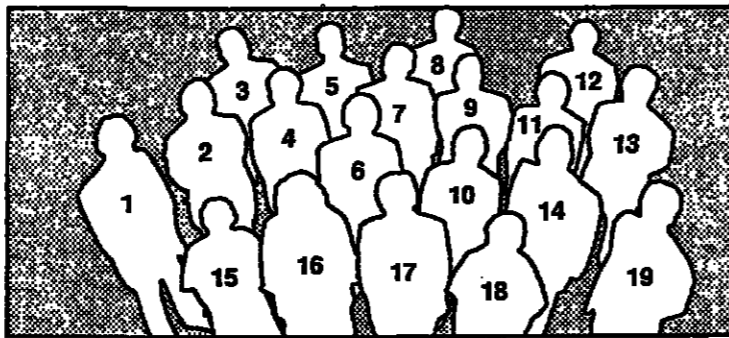
Fiona Gilmore, a director in an international business development and communications consultancy, said she believed British industry would establish the right way ahead only when people were willing to challenge old rules and aim for the highest goals long-term.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director-general, said: "I will make no bones about it. Too many in Britain tend too much to bumble through. We have a deeply-entrenched belief that 'it will be all right on the day', that somehow everything will come out all right."

"The Japanese very definitely do not do it that way. They think ahead and plan ahead extremely successfully. We must do the same . . ."

"The UK does not have a good track record in strategic long-term thinking, compared with Japan . . ."

"The CBI has a role in encouraging UK business to develop equal long-time horizons. The senior management who will have the responsibility for leading British business into the 21st century are the younger executives of today."



1. David Palmer, group planning and marketing service manager, British Steam Specialities Group; 2. Peter O'Neill, group development executive, Bonar and Law, Dundee; 3. Thomas, 17, and corporate development manager, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Edinburgh; 4. Francois Ellet, chief executive of Swains Packaging, Dublin; 5. Charles Hudson, running family farm and property company; 6. David Bowdler, systems service manager at IBM, Harsley; 7. Charles Target, deputy managing director, Economist Publications; 8. Richard Hooke, resources manager, British Aerospace, Weybridge; 9. Mark Higson, production director of Belmont Weaving; 10. Paul Cootes, production manager, Sainsbury's; 11. John Talbot, section head of tariff application and energy economics section, the Electricity Commission; 12. Malcolm Heald, group financial controller for Shand

Tory MPs rebel on child benefit

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

The Government faces a Commons clash with its backbenchers if it fails to increase child benefit each year in line with inflation.

This became clear yesterday in the wake of a vote underlining the strength of all-party support for maintaining the real value of the £7-a-week payment per child, which is currently channelled directly to seven million mothers.

Despite the efforts of Government whips, 35 Conservative members joined with Labour members in supporting a Bill brought in by Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams, the Tory member for Kensington, on Wednesday.

The Government believed that the Bill, brought in under the Ten Minute Rule procedure, which means it has no chance of becoming law, would pass without a division.

There was consternation on its benches when Mr Frank Field, the Labour MP for Birkenhead, dashed these hopes by forcing a vote. The measure was approved by 152 votes to three.

The 10p increase in child benefit which comes into effect at the end of next month is in line with the rise in prices but, according to Sir Brandon, does nothing to restore last year's 35p cut in its real value.

Tory split 'inevitable'

Continued from page 1

"supine appeasement". Mrs Thatcher retorted by insisting that no other Western industrialized country had done more to put pressure on South Africa.

Government business managers and senior ministers are hoping that the drawn out nature of the diplomatic manoeuvres, culminating in the Commonwealth leaders meeting in London in August, will defuse the differences inside the party. But the views put forward by pro-South African MPs to the Prime Minister last night make that highly unlikely.

Mr John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North and secretary of the British South African group, said before the meeting with Mrs Thatcher: "There should be no concessions at all, but positive moves by the British Government, including more direct negotiations with the South African government."

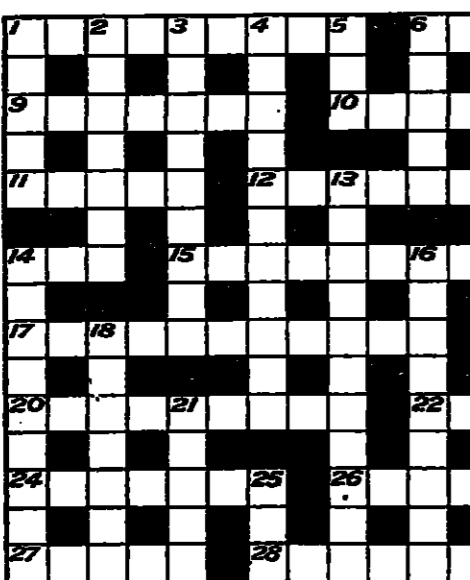
● Mrs Glenys Kinnock led 24 women, including Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat. ● Miss Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, and the actresses Eleanor Bron and Jill Gascoigne, are Downing Street yesterday to protest at the Prime Minister's refusal to use sanctions.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

- Royal engagements**
The Prince of Wales, President, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, attends a Gala Rock Concert to celebrate the tenth birthday of the Trust, Wembley Arena, 7.
Prince Edward, chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Thirtieth Anniversary Tribute Project, attends a Ball at Luton Hoo, Luton, Bedfordshire, 7.30.
Princess Margaret visits Cheltenham General Hospital, 2.55.
The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, names a new lifeboat, Cromer Pier, Norfolk, 3.
Exhibitions in progress
Spanish Civil War Exhibition, James Dun's House, Schoolhill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends August 9).
Manchester Football: Press and Photographs 1880 to 1939; Towneley Hall Art Gallery, Burnley, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5 (ends July 6).
Lithuanian Art: Craft and Natural History, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends July 12).
Lincolnshire Rising, 1536 to 1986, Usher Art Gallery, Lindum Rd, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends July 13).
Pictures for Hospitals, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 7, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 29).
Delffield Pottery Project, Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 31).
Paintings by Sumaya McIntyre, the Ginnel Gallery, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,077



- ACROSS**
1 Price reductions in brand range in Sussex (4-5).
6 Bad sort, according to "Animal Farm" (5).
9 Inhabitant of lakeside convention centre (7).
10 Plans the spoken word, and cuts bits out (7).
11 Wet ring, perhaps, left to dry (5).
12 Caught us, to face this sort of sentence (9).
14 City really must expel its odd characters (3).
15 Penny by way of compensation for school type (11).
17 Way in which doctor teamed up with consultant (5-6).
19 Satisfied G-man (3).
20 No loudspeaker for rumour-monger (9).
22 Cobra writing about in tree (5).
24 Hope dashed and trouble around, she went mad (7).
26 Poet ran back inside farm building (7).
27 Is it necessary for fourth of July to be so dull? (5).
28 Cake, it appears, consumed by favoured crew (5-4).
- DOWN**
1 Power giving indication of potential (5).
2 Fly article into airstrip (3-4).
3 Property man involved in snapp production (9).
- Solution to Puzzle No 17,076**
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1. JACKETS
2. WRAP
3. ROUND
4. FAST
5. RUMOUR
6. RING
7. WRITING
8. ABOUT
9. COBRA
10. IN
11. TREE
12. HOPE
13. DASHED
14. TROUBLE
15. AROUND
16. SHE
17. WENT
18. MAD
19. POET
20. RAN
21. BACK
22. INSIDE
23. FARM
24. BUILDING
25. IS
26. IT
27. NECESSARY
28. FOURTH
29. JULY
30. BE
31. SO
32. DULL
33. CAKE
34. APPEARS
35. CONSUMED
36. BY
37. FAVOURED
38. CREW

Food prices

Home-grown strawberries have made their first appearance in the shops this week, priced 50-80p for a half lb punnet. Those who like to pick their own fruit will have to wait a little longer. The Farm Shop and Pick Your Association says the latest season on record. Farms in the South will be open the last weekend in June, and farms further north about the middle of July. There is a wide selection of imported fruit to help keep us cool while enjoying the glorious sunshine. Juicy lemons are 6p-8p each, oranges 6p-8p, grapefruit 14p-28p. Salad ingredients are plentiful and there is a marvellous selection of lettuce to choose from: Round at 25p-30p a head; superb home-grown iceberg 50p-90p; Crispa 40p-45p and Webbs and Cos 30p-40p. Home-produced lamb prices have dropped considerably in the past week, and there are regional differences. For instance, the average price of whole leg in the South-east this week is £2.19 a lb, showing a fall of 8p a lb on last week.

French trains

Holidaymakers in France will be able to avail themselves of an expansion of express services by French Railways. The Lille-Lyon service of TGVs (Train Grande Vitesse) has been increased to two return services a day, and as from September 28 a new direct Rouen-Lyon service, avoiding the usual station change in Paris, will link the two cities in less than four hours.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 1pm approximately.

Pollen count

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 yesterday was 122 (very high). Forecast for today, higher. For today's recording call British Telecom's Weatherline: 01-246 8091, which is updated each day at 10.30 am.

Roads

London and South-east: ASD1; turning off in Cay Rd at junction with Shepherdess Walk, Walsingham, M19; junction between junctions 7 and 8 (M10 and Hempsford); southbound delays; non-lane delays; ASD2; closures at Alding Gate roundabout, junction of Alding Gate and Westing St; ASD3; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD4; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD5; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD6; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD7; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD8; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD9; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD10; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD11; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD12; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; ASD13; temporary lights 1 mile W of Conwy, between Conwy and Penarth; 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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

British Telecom profits rise 19% to £1.81bn

By Teresa Poole
British Telecom yesterday announced a 19 per cent increase in pretax profits to £1.81 billion...



Sir George Jefferson: "strong performance"

The results for the year to the end of March, were in line with expectations, and helped the shares gain 2p to 234p...

expected trends, we shall have another year of continuing progress. British Telecom's investment programme was on target with capital spending for the year reaching almost £2 billion...

The corporation's battle to improve productivity resulted in the loss of 5,000 jobs and a similar number are expected to go this year...

service. Mercury, expands. "We are looking at a number of options for what we can and ought to do," Sir George said.

The breakdown of trading profits shows that inland business accounted for profits of £1.61 billion, while international brought in £488 million...

The total dividend for the year is up 15 per cent to 7.5p. Times, page 19

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet
Allied ploughs ahead with \$500m more

Allied-Lyons' boardroom is full of intriguing uncertainties. The Monopolies Commission's deadline for a verdict on the Australian-organized bid for the group has been extended until September...

The absence of an easy explanation for the May figures which, in case anyone needs reminding, showed sterling M3 up 3 per cent on the month, 19.5 per cent on 12 months, and 39.1 per cent annualized on the latest three months, cast a gloom over the money markets...

The detail of the May numbers succeeds in demonstrating that they were exceptional. The other counterparts behaved extraordinarily badly. External and foreign currency transactions were expansionary by £1.3 billion in banking May, compared with average expansionary influence of a mere £20 million over the previous 12 months...

Yesterday, the food and drink conglomerate announced that it had established a \$500 million multiple currency Euro note as an essential part of financing the £1.24 billion Hiram Walker purchase...

The facility has been underwritten by 27 international banks. It will be drawn down in dollars, sterling or foreign currency advances and bid for by tender panels of banks and financial institutions...

The rest of the Hiram Walker funding has not been decided upon, but will be a mixture of debt and equity, according to Allied-Lyons.

The purchase of Hiram's drinks division meanwhile remains at the mercy of the Canadian courts. Allied-Lyons says it was satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings in the Ontario Supreme Court on Wednesday...

Olympia & York, which has taken over the whole of Hiram Walker since Allied made its deal, has given voluntary undertakings not to encumber the shares or asset base of the drinks business...

Back home, Sir Derrick may be drawing some comfort from the evidence of the Occupations Study Group report on employment trends which found that debt-backed takeovers such as that planned for Allied-Lyons tend to cut jobs unnecessarily in the quick struggle to recoup expensive money.

Any comfort depends, however, on whether the Monopolies Commission is aware of the evidence and whether it or the Government consider it relevant to the issue - as they should. The takeover was referred to the Commission precisely to review the consequences of its financial form.

In praise of PSL3
Even after extra time, the Bank of England has failed to resolve the stalemate over the May money supply figures. They were bad, and we still do not know exactly why, and pity the poor authors of the Quarterly Bulletin, due out in a week's time.

So, there was something decidedly odd about the numbers. As far as it goes, the favoured market explanation fits of a rundown in non-residents' sterling deposits - which in fact fell by an unadjusted £929 million - finding their way into Eurosterling issues.

More interesting, perhaps, than the entrails of sterling M3, is the performance of some of the other aggregates. In particular, the clumsily-named "PSL3, including term shares with building societies and bank deposits with an original maturity longer than two years," merits closer attention.

This aggregate, which Roger Bootle of Lloyds Merchant Bank has done us all the considerable service of christening PSL3, is performing, at least by the standards of the other broad money measures, rather well.

Over the past 12 months, it has increased by 14.7 per cent, which happens to be within the 11 to 15 per cent official broad money range. Its annualized growth over the latest three months, 22.1 per cent, is just over half that of sterling M3.

The game of picking the best-behaved aggregate and staying with it as long as it does not misbehave is the sort that gets you into trouble with the markets. In this case, though, PSL3 has a little more than this to commend it. The Bank of England, for example, was arguing its merits in the Quarterly Bulletin last December, but the Chancellor decided to ignore the hints.

The advantage of PSL3 is that it does not shift about in response to changes in market share between banks and building societies. There is an understandable reluctance in the Treasury to embark on a selling job for yet another money supply measure - look at the experience with M0. But if broad money targets are worth having at all, they should be couched in terms of meaningful aggregates. Now, more than ever, it is doubtful whether sterling M3 fulfils that requirement.

STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes FT 30 Share (1350.0 +9.9), FT-SE 100 (1619.0 +13.7), Bargains (25654), USM (Datastream) (122.84 -0.15), THE POUND (US Dollar 1.5035 +0.0020), W German mark (3.3581 -0.0015), Trade-weighted (75.6 same).

Auditors in new action

Johnson Matthey plc has started legal proceedings against Arthur Young, former auditors to Johnson Matthey and to Johnson Matthey Bankers...

A writ has been prepared and will be served on Arthur Young shortly. Mr Neil Clarke, the chairman, said yesterday the case was very complex and relates to professional competence over a number of years.

Johnson Matthey has decided to pursue the case in parallel with JMB, its former subsidiary, which has already served its writ, rather than to join in the same action.

Yesterday Johnson Matthey announced increased profits of £30.1 million before tax for the year to March 31, up from £20.1 million. Turnover was down from £1.52 billion to £1.36 billion and there was a 2p final dividend, taking the total for the year to 2.5p (nil).

Times, page 19

Dawson rise

Dawson International's pretax profit rose 20 per cent to £42.1 million in the year to March 31. Sales were up 7 per cent to £285 million and the dividend was increased to 6.2p (5.47p).

Times, page 19

Offer raised

Evered Holdings, the engineering company, yesterday launched a £164 million increased offer for control of McKechnie Brothers, the Midlands engineering group.

Details, page 21

Reject bid

After receiving Metals Exploration's revised offer document the Hampton Gold Mining Areas' board and advisers have again urged shareholders to reject the offer. Hampton is to write to shareholders about "important new developments" in its key Australian interests.

Talks end

Talks between Grosvenor Group and a private company, announced in May, have been terminated.

BP sale

BP is to sell its 50 per cent interest in Rockwood, the British mineral wool supplier, to Rockwood International of Denmark. Financial details have not been disclosed.

Asda deal

Asda-MFI has exchanged conditional contracts for the acquisition of Property Sellers which runs seven property shops in Asda stores on a concession basis. Asda intends to increase the number of Asda property shops.

Wardle's merchant bank

The battle for the industrial holding company RFD Group ended dramatically yesterday with victory for Wardle Storeys, the plastic sheeting manufacturer.

It won the day after BBA Group backed out at the last minute from entering the fray as a white knight, to the unopposed anger of the RFD board.

Wardle's merchant bank

De La Rue rights call for £64.9m

By Our City Staff

De La Rue, the acquisitive security printing and automated systems supplier, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue which will raise £64.9 million net of expenses for the company and increase its capitalization by about 16 per cent.

The new shares are being offered at 88p, which represented a healthy discount of 19p on De La Rue's opening share price yesterday morning before rumours of the rights issue leaked out. De La Rue shares fell 45p on the day to close at 1,025p.

Mr John White, finance director of De La Rue, which paid £27 million for the security printing side of Bradbury Wilkinson in April, said that the rights issue proceeds would be used to refinance recent acquisitions and to provide for future acquisitions and organic growth.

This month De La Rue announced a 6 per cent increase in pretax profits to £49 million for the year to March 31. Immediately before yesterday's rights issue the company had net borrowings of approximately £46 million and gearing of around 32 per cent.

About £55 million of the rights issue money will be taken up by the refinancing requirements. The total cost of the company's recent acquisition activities amounts to £40 million, while rationalization costs at Bradbury Wilkinson, consisting mainly of redundancy payments, add a further £5 million.

Another £10 million has been injected into three other businesses, which include Hasteck, the electronic printing company, purchased by De La Rue, in April.

De La Rue, which supplies bank notes to over 50 countries, currently has "a number of other acquisitions either in negotiation or reasonably in prospect," in the security printing and pre-press automated system fields.

Woolworth hits at Dixon strategy

By Alison Eadie

Woolworth Holdings yesterday issued its last major bid against Dixon's £1.8 billion bid, which closes on July 2.

The final defence document insisted that Woolworth's "Focus" strategy was producing returns which could unlock the real value of the chain. It also poured scorn on Dixon's "Ramrod" plan for the Woolworth stores, which Sir Kenneth Durban, the chairman of Woolworth, said would be better described as Ramsheadle.

Sir Kenneth said that Woolworth's management team had produced order out of chaos and made obvious the potential of the chain. The bid terms, which Woolworth considers wholly inadequate, were, however, not the real issue, Sir Kenneth said. It was a question of which management team was best qualified to manage the assets.

Woolworth said that the first group of the new Focus stores, which opened last October, had increased sales by an average of 27 per cent in the period to April. Mr Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive of Woolworth, said the shareholders had done better than most had expected when they invested in the institutional buyout 3 1/2 years ago. He was confident they would stay loyal to the board.

He also said Dixon's Ramrod strategy was flawed, because it implied that Dixon's would have to capture 40 per cent of high street electrical sales which would entail cutting margins and losing profitability.

Dixon has consistently maintained that it is the better retailer and can make Woolworth produce adequate returns.

It does not believe Woolworth's strategy can work, because it says the increase in sales needed to produce the required profits implies unattainable increases in the market share of the Focus product areas.

London International profits soar 28%

By Richard Lander

London International, the consumer products manufacturer whose bid for Wedgwood was referred to the Monopolies Commission, yesterday announced a 28 per cent rise in pretax profits in the year to March 31. They were up from £18.8 million to £24.1 million.

The figures, slightly above market expectations, were helped by the first full-year contribution from the Royal Worcester Spode china group, where operating profits increased from £1.3 million to £3.6 million.

Mr Alan Woltz, chairman of LI, said that Royal Worcester has increased its market share in the US but it was being hit in London by the decline in American tourists. He emphasized that the group planned to stick with Royal Worcester even if the merger with Wedgwood did not materialize. Other acquisition targets were being looked at while the Monopolies Commission examined the proposed deal.

The sale of condoms in North America had benefited from the AIDS scare. Although the market has been more or less unchanged for the past 15 years industry sales had increased by about 4 per cent over the past 12 months, a trend LI said was apparently connected with growing fears about sexually-transmitted diseases.

US seeks world rate cuts

From Bailey Morris Washington

Senior United States officials, concerned by growing signs of anaemic world growth, are pressing for a new round of international interest rate cuts to stimulate the global economy.

In interviews yesterday they said that the sharply lower US first quarter growth rate, coupled with the slowdown in the West German and Japanese economies, necessitated another co-ordinated interest rate cut.

The White House stepped into the debate yesterday, saying that President Reagan favoured lower interest rates. But Mr Larry Speakes, the chief spokesman, said his remarks should not be construed as a White House effort to put pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to lead a new round of rate cuts.

West German and Japanese officials are still under strong pressure from the US to stimulate their domestic economies. Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, said yesterday that West Germany already had the lowest rate in the industrialized world and that the rapid growth in its money supply ruled out a rate cut at this time.

The latest administration effort, spurred by fears that the US economy will not achieve the projected annual growth of 4 per cent, appears to reflect a growing split between White House officials and Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board.

Mr Volcker has expressed the fear that the dollar will fall too rapidly, resulting in a dangerous exodus of foreign funds needed to finance the record US deficit, which has been expanding.

The failure of the US economy to respond to favourable developments is placing the central bank in a difficult position. Revised first quarter figures showed sharply lower growth of 2.9 per cent, from an earlier forecast of 3.7 per cent largely because of continued erosion in the US trade position.

In addition, figures reported over the past two weeks have revealed lower manufacturing production, growing unemployment and the first cut in US personal income in more than a year.

With the US so dependent on foreign capital, officials fear that the growing disparity between the US deficit and the big surpluses of West Germany and Japan will force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to keep foreign money flowing into the American economy. Ultimately this could lead to another recession.

IBM chief predicts slow trade

San Jose, California (NYT) - The International Business Machines Corporation expects flat results for the rest of 1986 unless the economy strengthens, the chairman and chief executive, Mr John Akers, said.

He told analysts at the company's general products division at San Jose: "If business doesn't pick up in the United States I think IBM will have difficulty showing earnings growth." He said: "We are dealing with costs and expenses as aggressively as we know how to."

With the US so dependent on foreign capital, officials fear that the growing disparity between the US deficit and the big surpluses of West Germany and Japan will force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to keep foreign money flowing into the American economy. Ultimately this could lead to another recession.

IBM would concentrate on building future revenues and earnings growth by strengthening its product line and by reducing costs.

IBM will have fewer US employees in December than it had in January, for the first time since 1975, and Mr Akers said that job cuts would come through attrition not layoffs.

"We are a full employment company and will remain a full employment company," IBM began the year with about 405,000 workers, about 242,000 of them in the US. However, it is adding between 3,000 and 3,500 employees to its American marketing effort. Mr Akers said that the changes under way would

prepare IBM "to respond to improvement in North American demand when it comes, and they will leave us far leaner and more vigorous for the years ahead."

About the company's ability to compete with the growing numbers of IBM-compatible personal computers, Mr Akers said that it would continue to differentiate its personal computer line through products and service.

IBM had 1985 earnings of \$11.6 billion, or \$4.40 a share, essentially flat compared with 1984 income. Mr Akers added that spending in 1986 on research, development and engineering would exceed that of 1985 by 7 per cent.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 2 columns: Stock Market and Main Price Changes. Includes Dow Jones (1688.25 -0.69), Tokyo Nikkei Dow (1727.59 +100.52), Hong Kong Hang Seng (1778.29 -11.49), Amsterdam Gen (290.2 -0.2), Sydney AD (1210.8 +10.2), Frankfurt Commerzbank (2001.9 -28.7), Brussels Generale (594.89 +0.82), Paris CAC (242.2 (-5.4)), Zurich SKA General (504.70 -5.9), London closing prices Page 22.

Table with 2 columns: Interest Rates. Includes London Bank Base (10%), 3-month Treasury Bill (9.91%), 6-month Treasury Bill (9.91%), 30-year Treasury Bill (9.91%), Prime Rate (8.5%), Federal Funds Rate (5.5%), 3-month Treasury Bill (6.12-6.11%), 30-year Treasury Bill (9.91%).

Table with 2 columns: Currencies. Includes London S: \$1.5035, D: £1.5035, S: DM2.2351, S: Sfr2.7651, E: FF10.7200, E: Yen260.83, E: Index: 75.6. New York S: \$1.5030, S: DM2.2350, S: Sfr2.7651, S: Index: 115.9, ECU 10.639274, SDR 10.774422.

Table with 2 columns: Rises. Includes Northwest (509p +15p), Western Motor (155p +10p), J. Geller (150p +12p), Scott Greenham (127p +12p), Wolsley-Hughes (540p +12p), Manresa (279p +10p), Marshall-Landay (104p +12p), Johnson Matthey (205p +17p), Tesco (375p +10p), J. Waddington (855p +45p), Courtauld (290p +11p), Dawson International (258p +12p), Coats Vytilla (520p +12p), Allied Colloids (205p +15p), BET (413p +13p), Boase Massimi (225p +13p), Cable & Wireless (580p +10p), Mercury Int (758p +28p).

Table with 2 columns: Falls. Includes De La Rue (1025p -45p), Evered (104p -14p), Mountview (725p -25p).

Table with 2 columns: Gold. Includes London Fixing AM \$338.70 pm \$339.20, close \$338.75-340.25 (226.00-225.50), New York Comex \$338.70-340.20.

Table with 2 columns: North Sea Oil. Includes Oil Brent (July) \$11.80 bbl.

Fine weather boosts shop sales, says CBI survey

By David Young

The fine weather has come to the rescue of Britain's shops, stores and supermarkets, according to a survey by the Confederation of British Industry's distributive trades panel.

It says that after a disappointing spring, sales have shown a dramatic improvement over the past 10 days with the food and wine and clothing and footwear sectors doing particularly well.

The only area showing a slowdown in business is the motor trade, and that expects business to pick up from August 1, the date of the new registration mark.

STATE BANK OF VICTORIA LONDON BRANCH Licensed Deposit Taker Advises that it has moved to new premises at 30 Old Jewry London EC2R 8EY Telephone 01-726 0081 Telex 262052 Dealer 01-726 0031 Dealers 918559 Facsimile 01-600 9925

WALL STREET

New York (Renter) - Wall Street shares edged higher in early trading... The Dow Jones industrial average, which had touched a low of 1,863, recovered to 1,870.59, up 1.65, by 10.35 am.

The transport indicator slipped 2.13 to 779.50, with the utilities average 0.60 lower at 185.57 and the 65 stocks average 0.49 lower at 714.87.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index was down 0.03 at 140.63 while Standard & Poor's composite index fell 0.02 at 245.01.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, ASA, Signal) and their corresponding prices and changes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table showing market rates for various currencies and time periods.

OTHER STERLING RATES table listing exchange rates for currencies like Argentinian dollar, Australian dollar, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES table showing rates for currencies like Ireland, Singapore, Australia, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD table with sub-sections for EURO MONEY DEPOSITS, GOLD, and ECGO.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES table listing various futures contracts and their prices.

CANADIAN PRICES table listing prices for various Canadian commodities and products.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE table listing prices for commodities like sugar, coffee, etc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK table listing prices for various types of meat and livestock.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table listing prices for various metals.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table listing various investment trusts and their performance.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table listing various financial trusts and their details.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing numerous unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table listing prices for various metals.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK table listing prices for various types of meat and livestock.

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TEMPUS Long-distance questions for Telecom

As British Telecommunications prepares for greater competition, there is much for it to get to grips with — and much over which it has little control.

Yesterday's confirmation that the growth in call volume had picked up in the last quarter, to 7 per cent, suggests that the weak third quarter may have been an aberration. Reasons for the improvement, however, remain vague. The encouraging start to this year is similarly to be accepted cheerfully rather than explained.

On the other hand, action on improving efficiency and costs is very much in the company's hands. A net decrease of 5,000 employees kept the increase in staff costs to 6 per cent. Total operating costs were up by 9 per cent, however, but the company can plead sharply higher depreciation costs in mitigation.

Not including these and staff costs, the increase was 6 per cent in the last quarter, respectively lower than the growth in business. If those beguiling posters encourage the nation's telephone users to step up their dialling, the benefit to the bottom line will be immediate.

But while the company did much to confirm that it is steadily putting its house in order, two big uncertainties remain — one commercial and one political.

The arrival of Mercury on the scene was hardly a surprise, and the level of rival prices had been accurately anticipated. Nevertheless, Telecom's response — inevitably in the form of discounts for big users — is yet to be unveiled and there is considerable interest in how it will compete.

The company has so far made it clear that it will not be stamped into a price war but the philosophy has yet to be tested. And Telecom still has to convince some in the City that any loss of volume will be made up by a growth in traffic from new business areas.

On trading grounds, the underperformance in the share price — about 20 per cent over the past year — looks overdone. But there is still, of course, a political joker in the pack. As the next general election nears, any sign that a renationalizing Labour Party is in the ascendant will undermine the share price.

On forecast full-year profits of £2.05 billion, the prospective p/e ratio is 11 with the shares up 2p to 234p. Perhaps an investor's best option is to buy Telecom shares but at the same time place a bet with a bookmaker on Labour winning the general election.

Johnson

Matthey

Johnson Matthey says its platinum operations would continue, even if exports from South Africa ceased. It has access to sufficient stocks to run the business as normal for six to nine months and its secondary refining capacity at West Deptford, New Jersey, the largest in the world, would be able to meet increased demand. And a shortage of supplies would push the price to new heights, benefiting its manufacturing businesses.

Yesterday, Eugene Anderson, the chief executive, reported on recovery to date. Profits rose by £10 million to £30.1 million before tax but that reflected a sharp fall in interest charges rather than

Baker Perkins up £3m

Baker Perkins, the manufacturer of food processing equipment, increased profits from £13.1 million to £16.3 million in the year to March 31. Turnover rose from £247 million to £262 million.

Mr Colin Joyce, a director, said yesterday that British profits were better than expected at £16.9 million, up £7.2 million, before interest but after charging £2.7 million reorganization costs.

In North America there was

APPOINTMENTS

Guinness Beverage Group: Mr James Espey is to become deputy managing director.

Henley Centre for Forecasting: Mr Robert Tyrrell has been made managing director.

Volex Group: Mr K S Hooper has been appointed finance director. He retains the post of company secretary.

Lowndes Lambert Group: Mr B M Hulbert and Mr R L Tween have been named as directors.

Lex Service: Mr Harry Djanogly has joined the board as a non-executive director.

The Co-operative Bank: Mr Rodney Aspray has been made chairman.

Imbach (UK) and Disaster Call: Mr Clive Perkins has been named as a director.

Penios Home & Office Products Group: Mr Ray Parkinson has been made financial director.

Singer and Friedlander: Mr J Ross Finnie has been made assistant director.

Bacon & Woodrow: Mr R M Benjamin, Mr S M Jones, Mr D S Parmee, Mr D J Parsons and Mr T A L M Wakeling are to become partners.

Scottish American Investment Company: Mr Jack Shaw has been elected a director.

NFC Forwarding: Mr Ian T Robertson has become managing director.

Melbros Auto Panels: Mr Peter Dawson has become managing director.

IPE set to launch new oil contracts

By Richard Lander

The International Petroleum Exchange, London's futures market for the oil industry, plans to launch two new contracts on October 7 to extend its coverage over the whole spread of oil products.

The contracts will be in premium leaded gasoline, equivalent to four-star petrol, and heavy fuel oil of the type consumed by industrial and marine users.

Together with the IPE's existing gas oil futures traded, the new contracts mean that traders on the exchange will be able to hedge or speculate against heavy, medium and light products refined from crude oil.

Mr Peter Wildblood, IPE's chief executive, said the exchange was confident that the new contracts would attract strong interest from oil producers and consumers.

The exchange hopes that daily volume will average 400 to 500 lots in each contract within about six months of the launch.

Mr Wildblood said the IPE also looking at ways to revive the Brent crude contract, which virtually disappeared early this year when the sudden slump in oil prices shattered the "daisy chain" system of trading crude cargoes.

Molins eyes \$400m royalty cash

STOCK MARKET REPORT

By Michael Clark

Whispers in the market yesterday suggested that Molins, the tobacco and corrugated board machinery manufacturer, is considering taking legal action over royalties for one of its products that could amount to

There is also talk of a one-off licence fee payment which could amount to a further \$100,000.

The move could be good news for Molins's biggest outside shareholder, Mr Ron Briery, the New Zealand entrepreneur who now owns a 20.1 per cent stake in Molins through his Hong Kong-based company, IEP Securities.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market continued to benefit from selective support helped by another spate of impressive company results and the latest industrial production figures.

The FT 30-share index scored its fifth consecutive gain closing 9.9 up at 1,350.0. Dealers said that the market was able to take the rights issue from De La Rue in its stride although stock shortages were still behind some of the improvement. The broader based FT-SE 100 index also rose 10.6 to 1,629.6.

Addison Page Chetwynd Streets, the newly merged advertising and PR consultant, is about to hit the acquisition trail. We should hear next week that it has paid about £5 million for Taylor Nelson, the market research group which recently considered going public. Last year, Taylor Nelson made pretax profits of £600,000. Addison Page Chetwynd Streets rose 3p to 133p.

over \$400 million (£263 million).

Shares of Molins, the subject of an abortive management buyout earlier this year, held steady at 175p yesterday, but could go sharply better if the group decides to press its claim which goes back at least five years.

Speculation has been mounting for sometime that the group was planning such a move although Dr Adolf Frankel, the newly appointed chairman, was unavailable for comment yesterday. The claims for royalties of at least 2 per cent are believed to be connected with the group's flexible manufacturing system which is now used worldwide.

Gilts recovered from an early markdown and by the close were sporting gains of around 1/4% at the longer end of the market.

Resters, the international news agency and financial

Expect some good news shortly at Harold Ingram, the knitwear group, where Mr David Wickins, the British Car Auction chairman, recently bought a 28.96 per cent stake. Mr Wickins has big plans for the group which could see it more than double in size in the months ahead. Market men claim the shares, unchanged at 153p, are a chart buy at 170p. Next stop could be 370p.

services group, advanced 9p to 465p despite learning that a large placing of shares had been pulled at the last minute. Merrill Lynch, the New York broker, was said to have been ready to find a home for

around 12 million 'B' shares worth £55 million.

In electricals, Plessey firmed another 2p to 238p following the meeting with Springsour Vickers, the broker, earlier this week. English China Clay also moved 4p to 334p after a mildly bullish seminar arranged by de Zoete & Bevan the broker.

In stores, Ward White advanced 8p to 306p. Williams de Broe, the broker, is reckoned to be a fan of the shares after meeting the company earlier this week.

The hot weather and stock shortages are still turning out to be good news for brewery shares which were in sparkling form again first thing although profit-taking left them off the top at the close.

Allied Lyons rose 4p to 345p, after 348p. Bass 6p to 788p. Matthew Brown 10p to 480p. HP Bulmer 5p to 167p. Guinness 5p to 321p. Scottish

& Newcastle 3p to 211p. Whitbread 'A' 2p to 293p and Wolverhampton & Dudley 9p to 535p.

The life insurance companies continued to make the most from the increased busi-

ness expected to accrue from the switch by borrowers to endowment mortgages. These now make up the bulk of money lent by building societies.

Britannic firmed 5p to 859p. Equity & Law 5p to 260p. Legal & General 12p to 270p. London & Manchester Group 4p to 200p. Pearl Assurance 10p to 408p, after 413p. Refuge Assurance 13p to 416p and Sun Life 7p to 839p. Prudential Corporation, the biggest of the life insurers, also improved 20p to 834p as the market continued to reassure itself that the bulk of its recent rights issue would now be taken up.

RECENT ISSUES

Accord Pub (125p)	140	Fields (MRS) (140p)	120
Alumasc (150p)	149	Guthrie Corp (150p)	154 +1
Arlington (115p)	191 +1	Haggas (A) (140p)	143 +1
Ashley LJ (138p)	211 +6	Holston (85p)	92 +1
Barker (Charles) (150p)	151 +1	Jury's Hotel (115p)	102
Bick (147p)	141	Lopez (145p)	131 +1
Br Island (60p)	58	Marscope (57p)	154
Brodero (145p)	183	Savage (100p)	105
Campbell Armstrong (110p)	110	Soundtracks (40p)	38
Charles Hooper (135p)	150	Task Force (65p)	108 -2
Dalepak (107p)	126 +2	Tech For Bus (110p)	118
Dean & S (50p)	62	Templon (215p)	200 +2
Denstone (58p)	63	Tenby Inns (112p)	120
Eadie (38p)	42 +3	Usher (Frank) (100p)	85
Evans Halkshaw (120p)	124 +11	Westbury (145p)	161
		Worcester (110p)	146 -1

Amari N/P	9
Cater Allen F/P	338
Citifords Daines N/P	28 -3
Cran LJ N/P	345
Five Oaks N/P	10
Friendly Hotels N/P	8
Germond N/P	33 +3
Leo F/P	248
Molins N/P	45
Net West N/P	305 +15
Net & Sponsor N/P	3 +2
Prudential F/P	834 +20

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Amari N/P	9
Cater Allen F/P	338
Citifords Daines N/P	28 -3
Cran LJ N/P	345
Five Oaks N/P	10
Friendly Hotels N/P	8
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Leo F/P	248
Molins N/P	45
Net West N/P	305 +15
Net & Sponsor N/P	3 +2
Prudential F/P	834 +20

(Issue price in brackets).

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN SIR GEORGE JEFFERSON

The year that ended in March 1986 was an eventful one for your company and has seen strong financial performance at a time of change in the markets in which we operate.

Considerable progress has been made to ensure that we are equipped, not only to respond to the challenges of the liberalised and competitive market in the UK, but also to bring our expertise to bear in new markets worldwide.

We have invested substantial sums in developing and modernising our networks and are actively pursuing new business opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Turnover up 10% to £8,387m.
- Profit up 20% to £1,828m. (After adjustment for new capital structure)
- Proposed final dividend of 4.5p making 7.5p for the year.
- Employees allocated shares worth £18m under new profit sharing scheme.
- Capital expenditure of £1,973m wholly funded from within the business.
- Over 90% of capital purchases from UK suppliers.



STRONG PERFORMANCE IN A TIME OF CHANGE

CUSTOMERS

We continued the process of modernising the network to provide more efficient service to business and residential customers. As part of our £1,973 million investment in the year, we increased the number of digital exchanges to 183 and the installed length of optical fibre to 124,000 kilometres. The programme to upgrade our 76,000 public payphones is now well under way.

EMPLOYEES

Progress in the many fields of our activities depends heavily on the skills, commitment and dedication of our staff. The first year of our employee profit sharing arrangement sees shares worth £18 million set aside for eligible employees in recognition of their important contribution to the company's prosperity.

INVESTORS

A final dividend of 4.5p net per share will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be paid on September 29 1986, which together with the interim dividend of 3p paid in February 1986, will make a total of 7.5p for the year.

The AGM will take place on September 10 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, West Midlands. Details of this and regional meetings will be shown in the Report and Accounts which will be sent to investors in July.

We are keen to keep our 1.6 million investors up-to-date with the company's activities. Last year, over 4,500 attended our AGM and another 10,000 people came to regional meetings.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1986

	Fourth quarter		Full year	
	1985/6	1984/5	1985/6	1984/5
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	2,227	2,033	8,387	7,653
Operating profit	559	483	2,095	1,875
Profit before employee profit sharing and taxation	495	410	1,828	1,480
Profit before taxation	477	410	1,810	1,480
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	265	244	1,004	904
Earnings per ordinary share	4.4p	4.1p	16.7p	15.1p
Dividends per ordinary share net			7.5p*	3.9p

*Including final dividend of 4.5p to be proposed at the AGM. The accounts from which these figures are extracted have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies or reported on by the auditors.

If you have any queries as an investor please call us on this LinkLine number, which enables you to telephone from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call:

LinkLine 0345 010707.

British TELECOM Investing for growth

Advertisement for 'WELLNESS' featuring a car and various services. Includes text like 'xi!', 'WELLNESS', and 'FOR OVER 20 YEARS'.

Freemans will buy Warehouse for £11.9m

Freemans, the mail order group, has made a recommended £11.9 million bid for the Warehouse Group, the fashion-boutique chain.

Wellcome and ICI examine Cooper's

ICI and the pharmaceutical group, Wellcome, have contended that they are carrying out a big review of their jointly owned loss-making animal health business.

McKechnie rejects Evered's £164m bid

The bid for McKechnie Brothers, the Midlands engineering group, moved up a gear yesterday when Evered Holdings announced an increased final offer which was swiftly rejected by the McKechnie board as still inadequate.



Osman (left) and Raschid Abdullah: confident of victory

ECGD criticized for failing to take strong line on fraud

The Government's Export Credit Guarantee Department was criticized by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday for not having directed enough attention to the possibilities of fraud.

BIS Becom project for N Ireland

An international software development house is to be launched in Northern Ireland. The company, which by its fourth year expects to employ up to 100 people...

Law Report June 20 1986 House of Lords

Forgery is no defence in drugs sale

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain v Storkwain Ltd. Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Goff of Chieveley. [Speeches sold June 19]

Limit to extent of forfeiture order

Regina v Slater. Before Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Alton and Mr Justice Auld. [Judgment given June 16]

Attempting to procure is an offence

Chief Constable of Hampshire v Mace. Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Taylor. [Judgment given June 19]

Seeking access to child

Regina v Oxford Justices, Ex parte D. Mr Justice Waite, sitting as an additional judge in the Queen's Bench Division, on June 19, granted the applicant an order...

Capital transfer tax avoidance fails

Cholmondeley and Another v Inland Revenue Commissioners. Before Mr Justice Scott. [Judgment given June 17]

COMPANY NEWS table with columns for company name, interim dividend, and other financial data. Includes entries for PLAXTONS, LOOKERS, ARTHUR LEE, etc.

BASE LENDING RATES table with columns for institution and rate. Includes entries for Adam & Company, BCCI, Citibank, etc.

Correction section with text: 'In re N (a Minor) (The Times June 19) it should have been clear that there was a challenge to an allegation...

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Only on Tuesdays
1	Bass	Breweries	
2	Providence	Banks/Discount	
3	Travis & Arnold	Building/Roads	
4	Riley, Lebar	Leisure	
5	Sharruck	Electricals	
6	Freemans	Draper/Stores	
7	Alphabetic	Electricals	
8	Grimpan	Cinema/TV	
9	Alfred Irish	Banks/Discount	
10	Tip Top Drug	Draper/Stores	
11	GEK	Electricals	
12	Hargreaves	Industrial E-K	
13	Greenall Whitley	Breweries	
14	Bojan	Food	
15	BICC	Electricals	
16	Wintour	Banks/Discount	
17	House Of Leases	Draper/Stores	
18	Amer	Building/Roads	
19	English China Clay	Industrial E-K	
20	Reamore	Industrial L-R	
21	Whitbread "A"	Breweries	
22	Metal Clovers	Industrial L-R	
23	NEI	Electricals	
24	Starhouse	Draper/Stores	
25	Bardley	Banks/Discount	
26	Reid	Industrial L-R	
27	Bazer (CHI)	Industrial A-D	
28	GKN	Industrial E-K	
29	Casings	Industrial A-D	
30	Allied-Lions	Breweries	
31	TNT	Industrial S-Z	
32	Lavers	Industrial L-R	
33	Atwoods	Building/Roads	
34	Frams	Industrial E-K	
35	Heles	Industrial E-K	
36	Atlantic Resources	Oil	
37	Gerrard Nui	Banks/Discount	
38	CASE	Electricals	
39	Wiggins	Building/Roads	
40	Addison Page	Paper/Print/Adv	
41	Guinness	Breweries	
42	Pearson	Industrial L-R	
43	Midland	Banks/Discount	
44	Dale Elect	Electricals	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please be sure to take account of any bonus issues

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1986 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	0	0	100
101	101	0	0	101
102	102	0	0	102
103	103	0	0	103
104	104	0	0	104
105	105	0	0	105
106	106	0	0	106
107	107	0	0	107
108	108	0	0	108
109	109	0	0	109
110	110	0	0	110
111	111	0	0	111
112	112	0	0	112
113	113	0	0	113
114	114	0	0	114
115	115	0	0	115
116	116	0	0	116
117	117	0	0	117
118	118	0	0	118
119	119	0	0	119
120	120	0	0	120

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
121	121	0	0	121
122	122	0	0	122
123	123	0	0	123
124	124	0	0	124
125	125	0	0	125
126	126	0	0	126
127	127	0	0	127
128	128	0	0	128
129	129	0	0	129
130	130	0	0	130
131	131	0	0	131
132	132	0	0	132
133	133	0	0	133
134	134	0	0	134
135	135	0	0	135
136	136	0	0	136
137	137	0	0	137
138	138	0	0	138
139	139	0	0	139
140	140	0	0	140

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
141	141	0	0	141
142	142	0	0	142
143	143	0	0	143
144	144	0	0	144
145	145	0	0	145
146	146	0	0	146
147	147	0	0	147
148	148	0	0	148
149	149	0	0	149
150	150	0	0	150
151	151	0	0	151
152	152	0	0	152
153	153	0	0	153
154	154	0	0	154
155	155	0	0	155
156	156	0	0	156
157	157	0	0	157
158	158	0	0	158
159	159	0	0	159
160	160	0	0	160

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
161	161	0	0	161
162	162	0	0	162
163	163	0	0	163
164	164	0	0	164
165	165	0	0	165
166	166	0	0	166
167	167	0	0	167
168	168	0	0	168
169	169	0	0	169
170	170	0	0	170

INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
171	171	0	0	171
172	172	0	0	172
173	173	0	0	173
174	174	0	0	174
175	175	0	0	175
176	176	0	0	176
177	177	0	0	177
178	178	0	0	178
179	179	0	0	179
180	180	0	0	180

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
181	181	0	0	181
182	182	0	0	182
183	183	0	0	183
184	184	0	0	184
185	185	0	0	185
186	186	0	0	186
187	187	0	0	187
188	188	0	0	188
189	189	0	0	189
190	190	0	0	190
191	191	0	0	191
192	192	0	0	192
193	193	0	0	193
194	194	0	0	194
195	195	0	0	195
196	196	0	0	196
197	197	0	0	197
198	198	0	0	198
199	199	0	0	199
200	200	0	0	200

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0	0	109
11	110	0	0	110
12	111	0	0	111
13	112	0	0	112
14	113	0	0	113
15	114	0	0	114
16	115	0	0	115
17	116	0	0	116
18	117	0	0	117
19	118	0	0	118
20	119	0	0	119
21	120	0	0	120

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0	0	109
11	110	0	0	110
12	111	0	0	111
13	112	0	0	112
14	113	0	0	113
15	114	0	0	114
16	115	0	0	115
17	116	0	0	116
18	117	0	0	117
19	118	0	0	118
20	119	0	0	119
21	120	0	0	120

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0	0	109
11	110	0	0	110
12	111	0	0	111
13	112	0	0	112
14	113	0	0	113
15	114	0	0	114
16	115	0	0	115
17	116	0	0	116
18	117	0	0	117
19	118	0	0	118
20	119	0	0	119
21	120	0	0	120

CINEMAS AND TV

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0	0	109
11	110	0	0	110
12	111	0	0	111
13	112	0	0	112
14	113	0	0	113
15	114	0	0	114
16	115	0	0	115
17	116	0	0	116
18	117	0	0	117
19	118	0	0	118
20	119	0	0	119
21	120	0	0	120

DRAPERY AND STORES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0	0	109
11	110	0	0	110
12	111	0	0	111
13	112	0	0	112
14	113	0	0	113
15	114	0	0	114
16	115	0	0	115
17	116	0	0	116
18	117	0	0	117
19	118	0	0	118
20	119	0	0	119
21	120	0	0	120

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	0	0	100
2	101	0	0	101
3	102	0	0	102
4	103	0	0	103
5	104	0	0	104
6	105	0	0	105
7	106	0	0	106
8	107	0	0	107
9	108	0	0	108
10	109	0		

Motoring by Peter Waymark

Power just when it's needed

The turbocharged diesel is an increasingly popular breed of car which tries to offer a sizeable compromise between the usually conflicting demands of performance and fuel economy.

A diesel engine by itself gives around 25 per cent better consumption than a comparable petrol unit. But makes the car much slower. A turbocharger can help to compensate for the "lost" power without having too much effect on the fuel figures.

With British manufacturers reluctant to follow the turbocharged trail, the initiative is being taken elsewhere and not least by the Japanese. A good example of the state of the art is the Toyota Camry.

A clearly styled medium saloon, the Camry comes with five-speed gearbox, standard power steering and two features once considered advanced for Japanese cars: front-wheel drive and independent rear suspension.

It is the second version of the Camry turbodiesel to be offered in Britain and with engine size up from 1,839cc to 1,974cc and brake horse-power from 72 to 83, it represents a significant improvement.

Performance is still cannot match that of a two litre petrol engine but this is a far from sluggish car and once into its stride produces an impressive stage of power.

A green light on the fascia tells you when the turbocharger starts to cut in. This is governed by engine speed and usually occurs between 30 and 40mph, depending on which gear you are in. The result is a dramatic boost in acceleration, and one accomplished with a noticeable absence of fuss or strain.

The essence of the turbocharger is that it is a power in reserve, hardly ever used when driving around town but there to be exploited and enjoyed when the open-road beckons. It is most useful for its mid-range flexibility, the pulling power in high gear which not only makes the car relaxing to drive but gives a greater margin of safety to overtaking.

Like any diesel, the Camry is as economical in stop-start town driving as it is on the motorway and in either conditions should give at least 40 miles to the gallon. The further advantage of diesel is that fuel is currently up to 10p a gallon cheaper than petrol.

Power assistance takes the effort out of steering, though the steering is not as light as that of a petrol car. The British cinema, around 1905, there was a popular film called Rescued By Rover and though Rover was a dog, not a car, the title has suddenly taken on a topical significance.

Next month BL shareholders will vote on whether to change the name of the company to Rover Group, a move favoured by the new chairman, Mr Graham Day, as a means of improving the company's image and cutting the umbilical cord which still associates BL in the public mind with the long deceased and unlamented British Leyland.

If Rover does become top dog (pun intended) it will be a remarkable rise for a marque that little more than 20 years ago was a small, independent manufacturer, doing fairly well, thank you, and minding its own business. Born out of a famous 19th century cycle company which had built an electric car as long ago as 1888, Rover dropped as a maker of quality cars for the more expensive end of the market.

After the Second World War, its most celebrated offering was the Princess, officially so because of its time but unable to prevent Rover seeking the sanctuary of a bigger organisation and merging with Leyland, then chiefly a truck company, in 1966. Two years later came the much bigger merger that produced British Leyland.

Rover was only one of many marques inherited by the new company and by no means the most prominent. But gradually the other famous names disappeared. Riley and Wolseley hung on for a while as badges on what were really Austin and Morris cars. Wolseley went in 1975 when the 18-22 Series was re-named the Princess, officially so but kept on its name in fact until its return.

The end of MG sports car production meant the effective end of another proud marque, and no enthusiast regards the MG Maestro or MG Montego as anything more than a marketing ploy. Just as controversially, the Triumph name was dropped a couple of years ago when BL decided it had too many names and endorsed the findings of its market research that Rover had the greater pull.

Fast, but economical: The Toyota Camry Turbo-diesel

With British manufacturers reluctant to follow the turbocharged trail, the initiative is being taken elsewhere and not least by the Japanese. A good example of the state of the art is the Toyota Camry.

A clearly styled medium saloon, the Camry comes with five-speed gearbox, standard power steering and two features once considered advanced for Japanese cars: front-wheel drive and independent rear suspension.

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One useful move being introduced by the 'AA' is to equip its patrols with a comprehensive kit of what it calls "fast-moving" components. 15% of the most commonly needed spare parts. They should fit most models and says the AA, should improve the chances of getting the car started again at the roadside, instead of having to wait for a garage or post-leader-strait. All 3,300 AA patrols should have the kits by the end of the year.

Road sense

The school holidays will soon be here and with them the rush to the seaside and the spectacle of cars broken down by the roadside and parents trying to soothe fractious children while waiting for help.

Sometimes the cause is, as daft and avoidable as running out of petrol, though this is not one of the Automobile Association's "top ten". Easily topping the AA's list are ignition faults (responsible for 18 per cent of emergency calls) and flat batteries (15 per cent).

Prevention is better than cure and trouble can be headed off by weekly checks on oil, water, batteries and tyres. It may also be foolish to expect a vehicle that for 50 weeks a year is used only for short trips around town, suddenly to withstand the rigours of 300 miles on the motorway - at least not without a thorough service beforehand.

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Vital Statistics

Model: Toyota Camry Turbodiesel Price: £9,299 Engine: 1,974cc four cylinder Performance: 0-60mph 13.5 seconds maximum speed 106 mph Official consumption: urban 41.5 mpg 56 mpg 58.9 mpg 75 mpg 40.4 mpg Length: 14ft 6in Insurance: Group 4

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CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

Autotex advertisement featuring a car image and contact information for various regions including Northern England, Staffordshire, West Midlands, and Northern Ireland. Includes a table of current prices for models like Audi 100, Austin MG Metro, BMW 325i, Ford XR2, Mazda 323, Mercedes 230E, Nissan Micra, Opel Manta, Peugeot 205, and Volvo 340.

HOLLAND PARK MOTOR CO advertisement listing various cars for sale, including a 1985 Austin Montego MG Turbo, 1984 Audi Avant CD, 1984 Saab 900 Turbo, and 1983 Talbot Cabriolet. Also lists a list of cars for sale.

DISCOUNT NEW CARS STOCK INCLUDES advertisement listing various car models and prices, including BMW 3 Series, Renault 5 GT, and Volvo 740 GLE.

Reading Garage advertisement listing various cars for sale, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

TOP DISCOUNTS advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

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WEST END MOTORS (SWANSEA) LIMITED advertisement listing various cars for sale, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

LOVESAY FLEET SALES advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

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NATIONWIDE COVERAGE ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE advertisement for Bartholomew road maps, highlighting features like 3 miles to 1 inch scale and nationwide coverage.

MyCar advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

WALDSTONE MOTOR SALES advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Audi 100, 1984 Audi 100, and 1983 Audi 100.

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HONDA advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Honda Civic, 1984 Honda Civic, and 1983 Honda Civic.

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RENAULT 5 GT advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Renault 5 GT, 1984 Renault 5 GT, and 1983 Renault 5 GT.

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Rover 3500 Vitesse advertisement listing various car models and prices, including a 1985 Rover 3500 Vitesse, 1984 Rover 3500 Vitesse, and 1983 Rover 3500 Vitesse.

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Restaurant Guide

In Town

Out of Town

LUCULLUS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT. A new experience in seafood awaits you. A variety of house specialities.

THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER. Come and enjoy the finest Pradesh Indian cuisine at London's latest and most certainly greatest Indian restaurant.

The GANDHI Cottage. Finest Indian Cuisine. Exquisite Tandoori and Chef's speciality seasoned to your own taste.

KNOODLES RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. Special Home Made Pasta.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. The year we will be celebrating our 25th birthday.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. Mexican Restaurant. Speciality the best Tex-Mex.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. The Vegetarian. Speciality in vegetarian food.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. SELF-CATERING SPAIN. MARSELLA. Lux villa with pool.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. SELF-CATERING TURKEY. 2100 sq ft. 24 hours.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. U.K. HOLIDAYS. 5 BEYON. Sea. Scenic family home.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. CORNWALL & DEVON. 5 BEYON. Sea. Scenic family home.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. SUSSEX. 5 BEYON. Sea. Scenic family home.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. SUPER SECRETARIES. 5 BEYON. Sea. Scenic family home.

RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS. 5 BEYON. Sea. Scenic family home.

THE WELL HOUSE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT. High Street, Watlington, Oxon. FINE FOOD, TRADITIONAL AND HAUTE CUISINE DISHES.

Le Paysan. 11 ST. GEORGES ROAD, KEMP TOWN, BRIGHTON. BRIGHTON 697450.

GOURMET BREAKS! Le Poussin Restaurant. BROCKENBURST, HANTS. Set in the NEW FOREST only 90 minutes from London.

HASTINGS OLD TOWN. Lord Sam. Licensed Restaurant. 5 Colne Terrace, Hastings.

ENTERTAINING? CELEBRATING? Whatever the occasion, you will find a warm atmosphere.

KARNAPULI TANDOORI RESTAURANT. Fully Licensed. The year we will be celebrating our 25th birthday.

NEAR SEVENOAKS. 10 mile M20/A26 access. Spacious detached bungalow.

MIDDLESEX. NEAR NEW FOREST & easily placed for the M27/A26.

WILTSHIRE. NEAR NEW FOREST & easily placed for the M27/A26.

SOMERSET & AVON. BATH. 1800 sq ft detached cottage.

PROPERTY TO LET COUNTRY. HANTS/BERK. Beautifully restored country house.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY. GORU VILLA. 5000 sq ft. 4 bedrooms.

ROWING Extra racing will help Henley to pay for expansion

Henley Royal Regatta, who have invested over £1 million in their new plant headquarters... The University of London regatta... The Thames Challenge Cup has 76 entries for 48 berths on the opening day.

POWERBOATING Calls for stricter licences

As Britain's contingent of Formula 1 drivers prepare in the United States today for this weekend's Augusta grand prix, the main topic under discussion remains the tragedy in the Bristol City docks.

FOOTBALL Knox lured back to Aberdeen

In an attempt to regain the Scottish Championship they lost to Celtic last season, Aberdeen are to pin their faith on managerial power sharing.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures including Cricket, Football, and other events.

Portfolio Gold. DAILY DIVIDEND £4.000. Claims required for +35 points. OVERSEAS TRADERS. PAPER PRINTING ADVERT. PROPERTY.

RENTALS. GUARANTY Constantine. For the best selection of fine FLATS & HOUSES TO RENT. In prime London areas.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. A new unique service to our readers and advertisers. OPEN ON SATURDAYS for the placement of advertising. You can now phone in your advertisement to us any Saturday morning, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES MAKE THEM WORK FOR YOU

RACING: WEST HILSLEY CELEBRATES AFTER DICK HOLLINGSWORTH'S STAYER GOES ONE BETTER IN GOLD CUP

Gwydion should relish return to sprinting in King's Stand Stakes Longboat turns tide for Carson

Gwydion, a one-time leading flyer for this year's 1,000 Guineas, is taken to make a triumphant return to sprinting at Royal Ascot today by winning the prestigious King's Stand Stakes over five furlongs.

Once nicknamed the "Getting Out Stakes" when it was the last race of the entire meeting, it is certainly no such thing today with Nomination, Stalker, Last Tycoon, Hallelgite, and Double Schwartz also boasting good credentials.

As a two-year-old, Gwydion showed blistering speed to win the Queen Mary Stakes in a fast time at this meeting. In the Spring of this year, she was going so well her gallops on Newmarket Heath that Henry Cecil, her trainer, was optimistic that she would book her place in the Guineas field by winning the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury in April.

However, the combination of very soft ground and seven furlongs proved her undoing, and she could finish only fourth. So since that day, her training has been geared with today's valuable group one sprint in mind, and I am led to believe that her preparation has been like clockwork.

Nomination, who took high rank in the Free Handicap last year, is another who would have been Guineas-bound if he had passed his classic trial with honours. But like Gwydion, he too blatantly failed to stay so he reverted to sprinting and ran at the Curragh in May in readiness for today.

Nomination seems certain to be up there all the way, and with Paul Cole's horses in such fine form, I expect him to run really well, though being quiet, good enough to hold Gwydion.

A line through Nashia should encourage belief that Stalker can beat the French challenger. Last Tycoon,

whatever else happens. But the fact remains that Stalker is a disappointing start to the season at Lingfield where he finished only fourth behind Hallelgite, who won the Cornwallis Stakes over today's course and distance on his only previous visit to Ascot last autumn.

It is with more hope than confidence that Prince Sky is named to give Paul Cole his third taste of success in the Wokingham Stakes, following Calibina's initial triumph in 1977, and Queen's Pride, three years later.

What had undermined my confidence is the uncertainty about the draw. However, considering Cole's excellent record in this race, I was interested to discover earlier this week that the new master of Whatcombe has had his eyes set on today's prize over since Prince Sky ran so well to finish third at Newbury four weeks ago.

When Cole lays out a horse especially for one race, they are seldom wide of the mark, a comment that Otari underlined on Tuesday when he so narrowly won the Ascot Stakes.

Apparently, I would have preferred Prince Sky to have been drawn low after the way

Dick Hern and Willie Carson received handsome compensation for their misfortunes so far this week when Longboat topped to an exhilarating five-point victory over Eastern Mystic in the Ascot Gold Cup yesterday.

A close second to Gildoran in the same race last year, Longboat certainly made no mistake on this occasion. After Eastern Mystic had forced the pace on the final circuit, Carson's even-money favourite into the lead approaching the straight, and from that point the race became a procession.

Eastern Mystic finished only a head in front of Spicy Story, and Luca Cumani said that the runner had broken down during the race. "Pat Eddery said that he felt him go lame in the Swanley Bottom, so he's run the last six furlongs on three legs. He's an absolute hero, and we'll now give him a good rest to see if we can get him back."

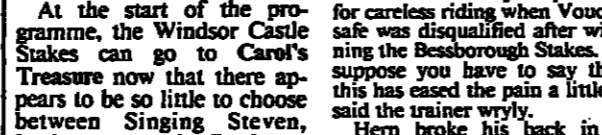
Hern had previously won Ascot's coveted trophy with Little Wolf in 1983, and Dick Hollingsworth, Longboat's owner-breeder, had also had near-misses when topped runner-up to Lemon in 1969, and when Sea Anchor finished third to Sagaro in 1976. Mr Hollingsworth had been breeding horses for over 30 years, and one of his most important successes was achieved when Bireme won the Oaks in 1980.

Speaking from his home in West Ilsley, Hern said: "I'm particularly glad that the horse, as he has, had much luck in recent years. I thought Longboat was unlucky last year, and he certainly did it in tremendous style today. I should think he'll now go for the Goodwood Cup."

On Tuesday, Bedtime was rather unluckily beaten in the Prince of Wales Stakes, and on Wednesday, Carson had received a severe suspension for careless riding when Vouchsafe was disqualified after winning the Bessborough Stakes. "I suppose you have to say that this was a good day for a little," said the trainer wryly.

Hern broke his back in a hunting accident in Leicestershire in December, 1984, and a few months later, fractured a leg in a fall at home. The Royal trainer's many friends will be pleased to hear that he is continuing to make satisfactory progress, and that he is now walking with the aid of a frame.

Longboat and Willie Carson storming clear in yesterday's Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (Photograph: John Voss).



Longboat and Willie Carson storming clear in yesterday's Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (Photograph: John Voss).

but Pat Eddery's younger brother kept Sperry going in tremendous style.

This was Eddery's second victory at the Royal meeting, the 19-year-old having won the 1985 Windsor Castle Stakes on Atall Aiatt, and amazingly impressing Peter Wall in Sperry's trainer's first visit to the winner's enclosure at this meeting, since Rhineland won the Britannia Stakes in 1978.

The Lambourn trainer was full of admiration for his gallant winner. "I must say I thought we'd been beaten," he said. "But I just love this little horse. He sucks his neck out and refuses to give in."

One of the biggest shocks of the meeting was administered when Risk Me, favourite at 7-4 on to win the Norfolk Stakes, could only finish fourth behind Sizzling Melody. Paul Kelleway's fluent National Stakes winner did not impress on his way to the start, and was always struggling in the race itself. "Basically, I think he needs six furlongs," said the trainer.

Sizzling Melody's win was certainly a feather in the cap of the first season's trainer, Lord John Fitzgerald. For after two years he had won by four lengths in soft ground at Leicester in March. Fitzgerald had stated that the colt might be good enough to run at the Royal meeting. However, since then, Sizzling Melody has been beaten half-a-length by Bestplan at Folkestone.

"Sizzling Melody was a very sick horse after winning at Lingfield in April," explained the trainer. "He got the virus, and then a secondary infection. He became so weak that he laid on his back for a few days. I brought him back gradually, and I'm sure he was at his best at Folkestone. But my confidence revived with a vengeance when he beat Tom Jones's Zaidoo by seven lengths in a gallop last Saturday." Yesterday, Zaidoo finished second only a neck behind the winner.

Fitzgerald is certainly enjoying remarkable success but has had seven winners with only 11 horses in his yard. And judged by the skill he has shown in their preparation, the newcomer to the ranks of training will soon be attracting new patrons.

Now 34-years-old, he has only had a four-year preparation for his new trade. "I was in the army for some time," he said, "and after that I spent about four years with Tom Jones and Bruce Hobbs."

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD

Glorious Goodwood is the next major social occasion in the racing calendar and 26 readers of The Times - plus a companion each - can win a trip to Goodwood which this year runs from July 29 to August 2. Full details of how to win are revealed at Goodwood which will be published in The Times tomorrow.

ROYAL ASCOT

Televised: BBC1: 2.30, 3.5, 3.45, BBC2: 4.20. Going: firm.

2.30 WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES (2-y-c £12,126: 5f) (10 runners)
 121 211 GALICIA (D) (M Kasid) W D Groomer 9-4
 122 212 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M Kasid) W D Groomer 9-4
 123 213 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M Kasid) W D Groomer 9-4
 124 214 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M Kasid) W D Groomer 9-4
 125 215 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M Kasid) W D Groomer 9-4

Royal Ascot selections
 By Mandarini
 3.30 Carol's Treasure, 3.5 Kirmanna, 3.45 PRINCE SKY (nap), 4.20 Gwydion, 4.55 Dana, 5.30 Brunico.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
 2.30 Allardi, 3.5 Froko, 3.45 Ho Mc Chinn, 4.20 Gwydion, 4.55 Dana, 5.30 Inde Pulse.

By Michael Seely
 3.45 Boot Polish, 4.20 GWYDION (nap), 4.55 Santella Mac (each-way).

3.5 HARDWICKE STAKES (Group II: £31,412 1m 4f) (10)
 201 350-360 GOLD AND IVORY (USA)(J) P Minton 1 Bading 5-10
 202 361 ST MIKE (USA)(J) P Minton 1 Bading 5-10
 203 362 ST MIKE (USA)(J) P Minton 1 Bading 5-10

3.45 WOKINGHAM STAKES (Handicap: £19,586: 6f) (30)
 0011 HULLY BURGER (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10
 0012 HULLY BURGER (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10
 0013 HULLY BURGER (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10

4.20 KING'S STAND STAKES (Group I: £48,826: 5f) (14)
 401 02220 ARNOOLD (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3
 402 02221 ARNOOLD (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3
 403 02222 ARNOOLD (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3

4.55 BRITANNIA STAKES (Handicap: 3-y-o colts and geldings: £11,720: 1m) (27)
 501 01-1 SANTILLA MAC (D) (M) (S) Bland 9-7
 502 01-2 SANTILLA MAC (D) (M) (S) Bland 9-7
 503 01-3 SANTILLA MAC (D) (M) (S) Bland 9-7

5.30 QUEEN ALEXANDRA STAKES (£10,725: 2m 6f 34y) (10)
 602 01064 INDE PULSE (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10
 603 01065 INDE PULSE (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10
 604 01066 INDE PULSE (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-10

FORM: RAVANO (6-2) ran to rising in 19th place with SEARHAW (6-2) 20th away from good ground. BRUNICO (6-1) just under 6th in Gold Cup when Longboat (6-1) in a narrow lead. SEARHAW (6-2) won the King's Stand Stakes (6-1) at Newbury in April. In 1985, JAMESMEAD (6-2) behind 2nd in 1984, May 29, 1984. OTARIAN (6-1) in 19th place in 1985. JAMESMEAD (6-2) behind 2nd in 1984, May 29, 1984. In 1985, JAMESMEAD (6-2) behind 2nd in 1984, May 29, 1984. In 1985, JAMESMEAD (6-2) behind 2nd in 1984, May 29, 1984.

Today's course specialists

ASCOT
 TRAINERS: H has 119 winners from 119 runners, 26.9% G. Harwood 39 from 141, 23.4%. Contain 6 of 27, 22.2%.

REDCAR
 TRAINERS: M has 19 winners from 48 runners, 39.6%. M. Jones 9 from 31, 29.0%. D. B. H. 3 from 12, 25.0%.

Royal Ascot results

2.30 CORK AND ORREY STAKES (Group III: £18,850: 6f)
 1 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3
 2 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3
 3 QUICK SNAP (D) (D) (M) (S) Bland 5-3

REDCAR

Going: firm
 Draw: middle to high numbers best
 2.15 LVERTON SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £925: 7f) (runners)
 1 001 001 BLAZER (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-11
 2 002 002 BLAZER (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-11
 3 003 003 BLAZER (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-11

2.45 UGHORPE STAKES (2-Y-O: (£1,735: 6f) (6)
 1 13 THEODOR (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-6
 2 14 THEODOR (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-6
 3 15 THEODOR (D) (M) (S) Bland 6-6

3.20 MOORSHOLM HANDICAP (£1,850: 1m) (13)
 1 402 BURJAD (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-8
 2 403 BURJAD (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-8
 3 404 BURJAD (D) (M) (S) Bland 4-8

AYR

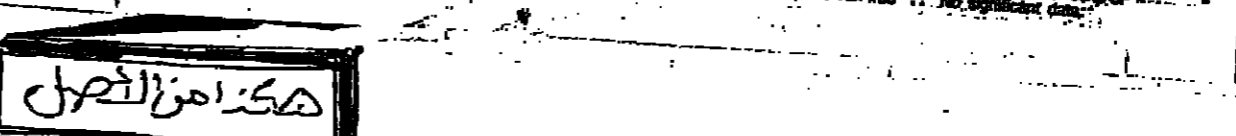
Going: good (straight course); good to soft (round course)
 Draw: low numbers best
 2.30 REDBURN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£1,308: 5f) (9 runners)
 6 04 MURPHY'S WHEELIE (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7
 7 05 MURPHY'S WHEELIE (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7
 8 06 MURPHY'S WHEELIE (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7

Hamilton results

Going: good to soft (soft turf)
 2.15 (6) 1. SKEATON GIRL (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7
 2.16 (6) 2. SKEATON GIRL (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7
 2.17 (6) 3. SKEATON GIRL (D) (M) (S) Bland 3-7

Blinkered first time

ROYAL ASCOT: 3.45 Show Home, 4.55 Mace, 2:00 Wook Wook, 5.0 Golden Rule, 2:15 Westgate, 4.50 Angel Target.



CRICKET: MARSHALL AND TREMLETT IGNITE HOSTILE HAMPSHIRE ATTACK

Extraordinary collapse again plagues an irresolute Surrey

By Richard Streeton
BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire's 24 (pts), beat Surrey (2) by an innings and 193 runs.

Border looks a class apart

By Ivo Tennant
ILFORD: Sussex with eight second innings wickets in hand, need to score 349 runs to beat Essex.

Middlesex overcome by Rice

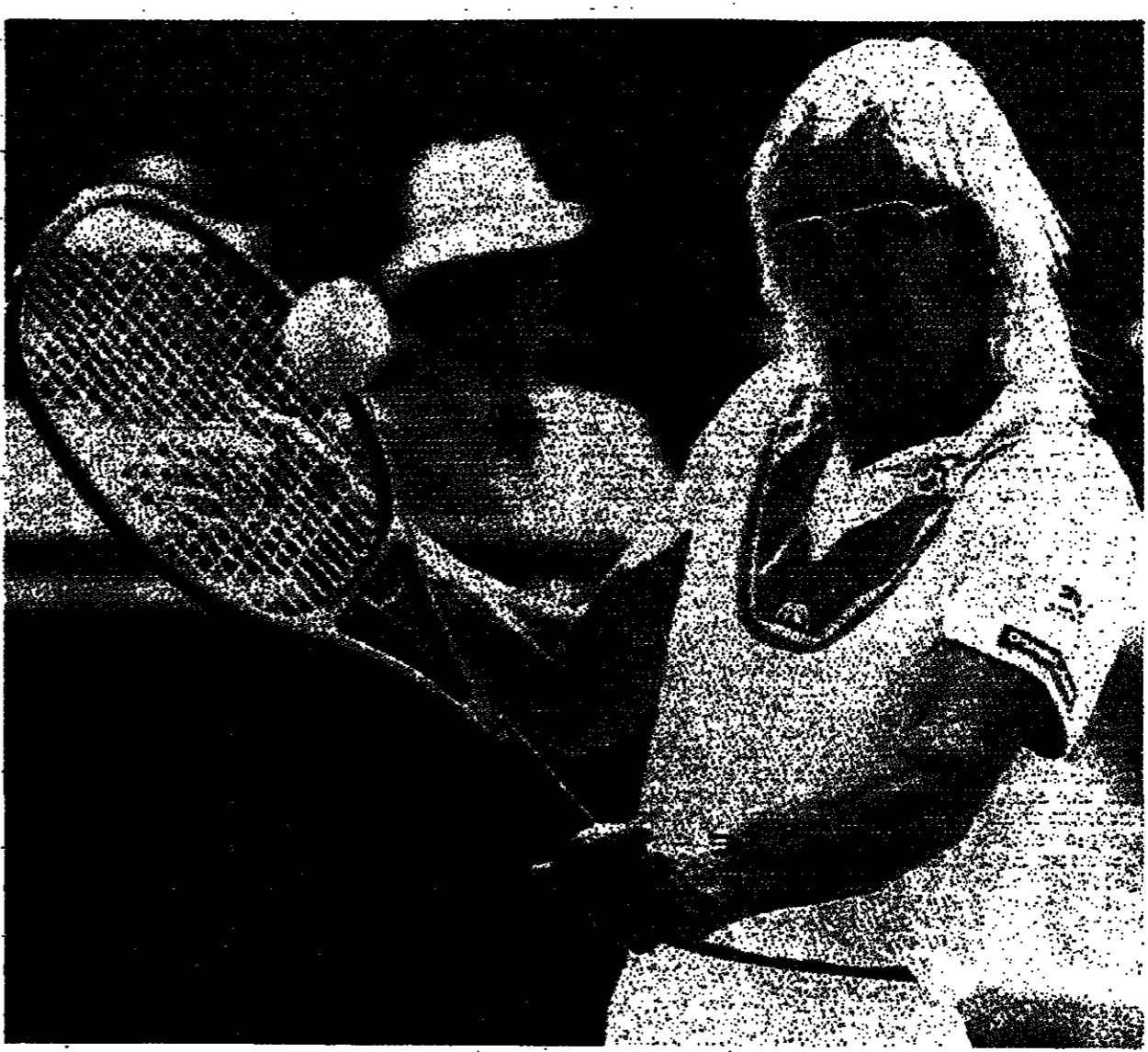
By Peter Ball
New Bucks: Middlesex's 87 (pts) needed 378 runs to beat Nottinghamshire.

Half centuries for Somerset pair

By Alan Gibson
BATH: Northamptonshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 226 runs ahead of Somerset.

Century by Curtis bucks trend

By Peter Marson
The Britanic Assurance county championship reverberates the sound of falling wickets yesterday, as in general, bowlers tended to leave batsmen trailing in the ratings.



An eye for victory: Martina Navratilova powering into the semi-finals at Eastbourne with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Etsuko Inoue, of Japan. Report, page 30 (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Ballesteros skirts around pillow-talk with Beman

From Mitchell Platts, Dublin
Severiano Ballesteros won round one of his contest with Bernard Beman, the Carrolls Irish Open began in glorious weather on the Portmarnock course here yesterday, then shadow-boxed his way round a potential confrontation with Beman, the commissioner who has prevented the Spaniard playing on the US PGA tour this year.

Bates goes down to Bostonian

By Richard Eaton
Jeremy Bates lost his chance of meeting Henri Leconte in today's semi-finals of the Bristol Trophy when he was beaten yesterday 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, by Bud Schultz.

Nicholas recovers well

Alison Nicholas, a diminutive Yorkshire golfer, took the lead on the first day of the Belgian Women's Open championship, sponsored by Godiva, with a round of 67 in Brussels yesterday. This surpassed the par for the 6,084-yard Royal Waterloo course by six strokes. She led by one shot from Patty Grant, a new Canadian member of the Women's Professional Golf Association.

Sir Leonard bats on happily

Sir Leonard Hutton, who will be 70 on Monday, was one of the great cricketers of his time and, indisputably, of any time. He was not a batsman; he was a batsman. He had a score of 364 that stood for two decades as the highest in Test cricket, and became the first professional to captain England. More than that, perhaps, he is remembered for his approach to the game, and the way he scored his runs.

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YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Table containing various cricket scoreboards for Glamorgan v Warwickshire, Worcs v Yorkshire, and Gloucestershire v Kent.

Worcs v Yorkshire

Cricket scoreboard for Worcestershire vs Yorkshire match.

Gloucestershire v Kent

Cricket scoreboard for Gloucestershire vs Kent match.

Tug-of-war

Tomorrow, 432 competitors, representing 34 teams, gather for the Taylor Woodrow national outdoor tug-of-war championships at Macclesfield, Rugby Union Club in Cheshire. The event will have all the champion clubs defending their titles in the six weight categories.

ICC Trophy

WEDNESDAY'S LATEST RESULTS: Group 5: Malawi Ashfield, Malaysia 239 (141-1) v Guyana 114 (92-4). Group 4: Sri Lanka 192 (145-5) v Oman 51 (40-1). Group 3: England 40 (20-1) v Kenya 32 (14-2). Group 2: Hong Kong 251 (145-6) v Sri Lanka 265 (106-5) in 50 overs. Group 1: Sri Lanka 110 (55-4) v Guyana 114 (92-4) in 50 overs. Group 0: Sri Lanka 110 (55-4) v Guyana 114 (92-4) in 50 overs.

Second XI championship

TALBOT: Somerset 98 (R Knapworth 5 for 14) and Essex 85 (D. G. Bennett 3 for 14) in 45 minutes. Second XI championship.

LEARNINGTON: Warwickshire 390 for 6 (D. G. Bennett 150, A. J. Miles 123, D. J. Pridmore 85) in 45 minutes.

LEARNINGTON: Warwickshire 390 for 6 (D. G. Bennett 150, A. J. Miles 123, D. J. Pridmore 85) in 45 minutes.

Ivo Tennant

WORLD CUP: ROBSON CHECKS OUT MARADONA FOR THE QUARTER-FINAL MEETING WITH ARGENTINA

England confident they can pass their tough test of character

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Mexico City

England have reached a position of respectability. Having stumbled in the footballs, they found their way just in time and are now ennobled as one of the top eight nations in the world. They may yet climb higher peaks, but Bobby Robson's team have already claimed their right to be included among the strongest contenders from Europe.

Robson was looking no further when his squad entered the competition. "I always felt we were capable of getting this far," he said. "To go beyond it will be a bonus. To exceed the manager's realistic expectations, England must beat Argentina in a game that will inevitably be more than a World Cup quarter-final tie.

The shadow of the Falklands is sure to hang over the Azteca Stadium on Sunday, but the Football Association's officials are confident the atmosphere of friendship can be held across the divide and diplomatic damage can be repaired. "It is a wonderful opportunity to build a bridge," Ted Croker, the secretary of the FA, said. "Sport and politics overlap occasionally but sport closes gaps more easily. We are convinced that only good can come out of it."

The conflict is so far behind me that I believe this chance is overdue anyway. I happened to travel to the game against Paraguay with Admiral Lacoste, who is a former president of the Argentine FA. Without wishing any ill will on his neighbouring country, he was also hoping that our two nations should meet.

Nor does Croker fear the prospect of crowd trouble which has, mercifully, remained hidden in the ground. "English supporters have behaved so well, almost better than we dared hope, that, who knows, maybe we have entered a new era. Certainly they built up an incredibly good record in Monterrey by fraternizing with the locals."

It is as though destiny has ushered all of England's representatives towards a genuine test of character. Off the pitch the limited number of followers will be under the closest scrutiny as they sit in the rafters of the huge arena and, if they maintain the standards they have set so far, another piece of the nation's reputation will have been restored.

The initial difficulties in front of him were almost all of England's own designs. When Robson said that he had seen no better left-back than Sansom, no better centre-half than Butcher and no better goalkeeper than Shilton, he was tacitly shifting the blame onto Stevens and Martin, who was also shown the yellow card for a moment of "silly penance".

The only other individual contribution that could be faulted was that of Reid, whose troublesome ankle took the full force of Cañete's studs in the opening minute. Robson, aware that he was "impaired from the start", chose to leave him on until victory was assured. Although Tottenham's Stevens replaced him, Wilkins now awaits a recall.

The others will almost certainly be retained. Beardsley and Lineker, who between them claimed all three goals, almost combined for a fourth that would have been hailed as one of the best of the tournament. Steven continued to improve so steadily that Robson, for one, is convinced that "he will definitely be another Coppell" and Hodge, again, more than adequately filled his role as the captain's understudy.

His regrettable booking has engendered his place and Robson concedes that because of that Bryan Robson has again come into the reckoning. Even though Fenwick has recovered from his groin strain, the potential loss of Butcher, who was cautioned in the first round, is an even greater threat to England's security.

The midfield quartet, in which Hoddle became an increasingly decisive influence, has brought more cohesion, variety and flexibility to the formation. But Robson insists: "We didn't play that badly in our first two games in Monterrey. I thought we showed more quality than that the West Germans did against Morocco the other day."

"I wouldn't have backed them in extra time. Some of them had gone physically and I'm sure they won't enjoy going back there to take on Mexico," England, benefiting from last month's high-altitude training in Colorado Springs, did not suffer as much as expected in the Aztec Stadium where the temperatures were comparatively low.

Lineker, whose overall total of five goals was later equalled by Spain's Butragueño, was troubled in the second half more by the elbow of Delgado, Paraguay's captain. After being hit in the throat, he found it very difficult to breathe. "It was embarrassing going off on the stretcher," he said. "I didn't have to but I needed another minute to recover."

By the time Lineker had recovered, so had England. It does not seem so long ago, towards the end of the first half against the Moroccans, that their challenge was on the verge of complete collapse. Now they have matched the feat of Sir Alf Ramsey's side of 16 years ago in reaching the quarter-finals.



Hands together: Lineker salutes the goal that sent England on their way to victory (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

England: P. Shilton (Southampton); G. Stevens (Everton), K. Sansom (Aston Villa), G. Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur), A. Martin (West Ham Utd), T. Butcher (Ipswich Town), T. Steven (Everton), P. Reid (Bolton), S. Hodge (Aston Villa), G. Lineker (Everton), P. Beardsley (Newcastle Utd, sub: M. Hately, A. C. Miller).

Paraguay: R. Fernandez, J. Torres (sub: J. Sanchez), C. Zubizarreta, R. Delgado, R. Nuñez, B. Ferreira, J. Romero, R. Cabañas, A. Cañete, A. Merdoza. Referee: J. Al Sharif (Syria).

At the end of the year, the BBC will have given us 1,500 hours of sport, and jolly well they do it, too. Most of it actually goes out during the day, when there is otherwise little or nothing on. But there are still plenty of people who find this figure unacceptably high.

Sport is just a waste of time, isn't it? Trivial, pointless, eroding of intellectual standards. To put out so many hours of sport is, people say, a terrible waste of time and money.

Carrea, of Brazil, came up with a new one after scoring against Poland. It appears to be an imitation of an aeroplane, like a child playing at being a pilot, held horizontally and making a zig-zag run. Hugo Sanchez, of Mexico, does a "look-no-hands" somersault flip, while Luis Flores, of Mexico, likes to lift his jersey high, revealing his stomach, as he does a half-lap around the pitch.

Edinho, of Brazil, launches into a skip — the sort of thing children do on the way back from school when they know they have no homework.

Yesterday man who dreams of mañana

From Clive White, Quetzalero

Four years ago, Spain's national team have earned the pride of the nation. Just as Mexico are promising to ride the crest of 70 odd old all the way to the World Cup, so Spain could have been lifted had they even hinted, as host nation in 1982, at the qualities that destroyed Denmark, one of the World Cup favourites, at the Corridors Stadium on Wednesday.

Should Mexico all away Spain must hope that allegiance will be transferred to the mother country. Yet had the 64-year-old Miguel Muñoz been placed in charge of the national team before reaching an age when most men are dreaming of their youth, Spain might already have done justice to the great footballing traditions of their club sides.

Muñoz was captain and manager of Real Madrid through those remarkable days in the 1950s and 1960s and his appointment as national manager seemed an inevitable progression after he resigned from Real in 1974. But for some reason he has not been allowed to do so for 12 years in Andalucía. Muñoz has had to sustain his dreams. When asked after Wednesday's 5-1 defeat of Denmark if this was his greatest moment he replied, appropriately: "I believe the happiest day of my sporting life has yet to come."

Suddenly his claims that Spain possessed the best players in the tournament had a lot less to do with blind patriotism. He had, in any case, tempered the remark by commenting that "we always think our children are the best of their generation since his appointment after the bitter failure of José Santamaría he has lovingly reared the Spanish side who, if not yet the best, are certainly one of the most effective."

In 1984 Spain finished runners-up to France and England in the European senior and under-21 championships respectively. Their progress to the quarter-final stage of the World Cup, the furthest they have been in 36 years, has coincided with a revival at club level. Spanish clubs reached the finals of three major competitions last season, winning the UEFA Cup, which Real were defending.

Five of those who performed for the under-21 side have graduated to full level, including Butragueño, whose form has shown an increasing maturity, since the start of this championship. Taking advantage of Danish transgressions in defence, he scored four goals, the first time anyone has done that in the competition since Eusebio in 1966.

But as his goal haul might suggest, five out of Spain's 10, they depend heavily upon him. As in the European senior championship, when Macedo was heavily held out by George Courtney, the English referee, missed Denmark and crucially missed the final, so Goicoechea was mistakenly booked for an alleged foul on Elkjaer by the equally forthright coach referee, J. Kistner, who will miss the quarter-final against Belgium at Puebla on Sunday.

Muñoz, deprived as he is of the injured Macedo, will have to make another inspired piece of improvisation, as he has done with the conversion of Gallego to sweeper and Camacho to centre-back. And deprived, too, of the irreplaceable Gordillo, he may be asking for one rabbit too many from out of the hat.

DEBARRAQUE L. HOGST. S. BASK. M. OSMAN. J. NIKOLAJEVIC. P. KUBICKI. H. J. BARRAGAN. P. EKLJAER. M. LINDHOLM. B. BERLIND. H. ANDERSON (sub: J. Erikson), P. HOGST. J. ZUBIZARRETA. J. C. CANO. J. CAMACHO. Y. MUÑOZ. A. GOICOECHEA. BUTRAGUEÑO. J. MERDOSA. R. GARCIA. R. DELGADO. J. SANCHEZ. J. BOYA. GONZALEZ. Referee: J. Kistner (The Netherlands).

Opportunity for Mrs Edgar to stake her claim

By Jenny MacArthur

Although the selectors have stressed that this weekend's Dubai Cup meeting at Hickstead is not a final trial for next month's World Championships in Aachen, West Germany, the British team of four will be named at Hickstead on Sunday, the final day of the meeting.

Ronnie Massarella, the British team manager, said yesterday that the announcement was being made at Hickstead purely for convenience. "It can't be a trial anyway," he said, "because Malcolm Pryor and Townsend, Anjeleczek aren't competing."

The other seven short-listed riders are competing, however, and while the selectors may not be looking upon the event as a trial, Ted Edgar, who trains two of the shortlisted riders — his wife, Liz, and the young Janet Hunter — certainly is. "If Liz goes well this weekend there's no reason why she shouldn't be in the team," he said yesterday.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs Edgar and her top horse, Everest Forever, now 14 but very much on form, will be aiming for a second successive win in the £11,000 Dubai Cup, the second richest show-jumping event in Britain after the Hickstead Derby.

John and Michael Whitaker, who together with Nick Skelton and Pryor are the front-runners for the team for the World Championships, are likely to be Mrs Edgar's chief rivals at Hickstead. Both are bringing their likely championship riders — Nest Hopocich and Nest Warren Point respectively — but the horses on which they are likely to be most threatening this weekend are their two backup horses, the 18-year-olds, Owen Gregory and Ryan's Son.

These two former Derby winners both excel over Hickstead's big, galloping courses and at the Nations Cup meeting three weeks ago they proved that age has not diminished their skill.

Ryan's Son finished first and Owen Gregory second in the Everest Double Glazing Trophy. Of the other British riders competing in the well-filled classes this weekend, Skelton, winner of the inaugural Dubai Cup in 1984, is likely to go well with the long-striding Raffles Apollo, as is Miss Hunter with Everlet Lisamarrow, on whom she produced a crucial clear round for Britain in the Nations Cup.

One outsider on whom everyone will be keeping a wary eye is Joe Turi, the former Hungarian trick rider, who impressed at the last meeting — his first Hickstead — when he and Vistal took third place in the Grand Prix.

No international Hickstead meeting is complete without West Germany's Paul Schöckemöhle, whose record on this ground is second to none. His most memorable wins were his second European individual title here in 1983 and the jumping derby the year before. He thought he would have to miss this weekend because of having to compete in a trial for the World Championships, but his federation excused him at the last moment. With three European titles to his credit and with Dieter the only horse to have two clear rounds in the Nations Cup three weeks ago there seems little need for him to be subjected to any further trials.

The other foreign riders at the meeting include the full Dutch team for the World Championships, headed by Rob Ehrens, who had to miss the Nations Cup because his wife was having a baby. The Irish are fielding their top riders, including Eddie Owen Gregory and Ryan's Son, Gerry Mullins and a newcomer, Paul Duffy, who was the surprise winner of the big opening competition at the last Hickstead meeting riding Paddy's Son.

Negrete a threat to Germans

Mexico City (Reuters) — Pelé described it as a magnificent goal, the best in the World Cup so far.

Manuel Negrete's effort for Mexico last Sunday, a twisting scissor kick which volleyed a shoulder-high ball into the bottom corner past the Bulgarian goalkeeper, must have reminded the Brazilian maestro of his own marvellous past.

It should have warned the West German team, who are now the right to face the host country in the quarter-finals, that there is more to Mexico than Hugo Sanchez, the Real Madrid goal-scoring machine.

Senchez, a multi-millionaire and the first Mexican footballer to achieve world fame, is the centre of attention for journalists and supporters alike. But little Negrete, whose delicate skills often appear more suited to a ballet troupe, has been at the heart of the host country's World Cup planning and could be the man to throw a spanner in the works of the West German side.

He stands only 1.70 metres high and weighs less than 65 lbs, but like Alain Giresse, the French midfielder man, he proves that skill and vision are more than a match for sheer bulk.

Leading scorers: 5 - E. Butragueño (Spain), G. Lineker (England); 4 - A. Althoff (Italy), J. Belanov (Soviet Union), C. March (Brazil), P. Ekber (Denmark); 3 - J. Olsen (Denmark), J. Valdano (Argentina); 2 - K. Alotta (West Germany), R. Cabañas (Paraguay), J. Chudew (Soviet Union), J. Jusman (Brazil), A. Khairi (Morocco), F. Cañete (France), J. Romero (Paraguay), F. Sella (Soviet Union), G. Sofer (Brazil), V. Stopyra (Poland), J. Yaremchuk (Soviet Union).

Switching on to the truth

By Simon Barnes

On Wednesday night I went to bed, sheer drunk on football. At any rate, it cannot be denied that football was at least a contributory factor. First there was England-Paraguay ("and Lineker abused brutally...deliberately... cynically," said J Hill, choking with emotion), and then Denmark-Bulgaria, an unswitchable boom.

Now we have a holiday from football, a couple of days to draw breath for the final assault on the peak. In fact, there are only four nights left to us in the competition. After that, perhaps, we will be able to take a break from televised sport.

But it will take willpower. Even as I write, I know that the Test match will soon be starting, and then in the afternoon there is Royal Ascot ("Oh look, more sports, and what absolutely gorgeous accessories"). Ascot will soon be over — and on Monday, Wimbledon starts. Boo, I say! The BBC will miss not a plink nor a plonk of that. But,

how to do it. It is better to stick with our zonal system, other-wise the French team may take advantage of the situation. The said. "If you try to mark Platini out of the match other French players will certainly take advantage of the space, especially (Dominique) Rocheteau and (Luis) Fernandez," said Soerates, another veteran of the 1982 World Cup campaign.

Santana has not revealed his game plan for the players yet, but it is thought that Alemão will be asked to watch Platini without necessarily dogging his every step. "If Platini attacks through the right Elzo can take care of him. Through the left flank, then I'll watch him, but there are other good players in the team apart from Platini," Alemão said.

Wednesday's results: England 2 (1) 3 Paraguay (0) 0; Denmark 2 (1) 3 Bulgaria 4 (1) 0; Soviet Union 2 (0) 3 Romania 4 (0) 0; Czech Republic 0 (0) 0 Argentina 0 (0) 0; West Germany 1 (1) 0 Mexico (0) 0; Argentina 2 (0) 0 Spain (0) 0; Spain 1 (1) 0 Mexico 0 (0) 0; Spain 1 (1) 0 Mexico 0 (0) 0.

Quarter-finals: Brazil v France (Tomorrow, Guadalajara, 7pm); West Germany v Mexico (Tomorrow, Monterrey, 11pm); Argentina v England (Sunday, Azteca Stadium, 7pm); Spain v Belgium (Sunday, Puebla, 11pm).

Happiness is going to extremes

Mexico City (Reuters) — Long after the goals at this year's World Cup have been forgotten, people may well reminisce about what happened after they do it, too.

In the modern game the commemoration of a goal has become almost a religious ritual and players have developed their individual ways of expressing their joy.

Carrea, of Brazil, came up with a new one after scoring against Poland. It appears to be an imitation of an aeroplane, like a child playing at being a pilot, held horizontally and making a zig-zag run. Hugo Sanchez, of Mexico, does a "look-no-hands" somersault flip, while Luis Flores, of Mexico, likes to lift his jersey high, revealing his stomach, as he does a half-lap around the pitch.

Edinho, of Brazil, launches into a skip — the sort of thing children do on the way back from school when they know they have no homework.

share of it. So players at the top do not play doubles. They are not classical — tremendous tournaments because they make so much money (when they do play) and they play fewer years.

"The great pity is that the mixed has declined, too. Since the dividing were separated the standard of women's tennis has been raised immensely, to such an extent that mixed doubles could now be an even greater event than it used to be. The prize-money may be derisory but we may be sure that the players who play mixed will echo through the soft light of evening during the next fortnight. Much of that applause will be for Australians, notably Peter McNamee and Paul Newcombe, the successors to Newcombe and Roche. Australians have not forgotten that tennis can be a team game."

Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

SWIMMING BOWLS A welcome relief to instruction By Gordon Allan

"It is not an instructional tome; there are plenty of those around for those who feel the need." Patrick Sullivan writes in the introduction to his book, Bowls (Guinness Books £2.95).

I hope I will not be the only reader to feel relief on seeing that assurance. There are too many "instructional tomes" in sport. You cannot learn to bowl like David Bryant by reading a book; you can only absorb the basic lessons. After that you have to rely on the limited ability you were given. Bowls needs this book. Mr Sullivan gives us in lively style the history of the ancient game, from Thebes to Worthing. He gives us his views on organisers, with V.G. Green figuring large in text and photograph. He provides the winners of the main championships in all codes, short biographies of famous players, men and women, an A to Z of the game world-wide, and a glossary of technical and colloquial terms.

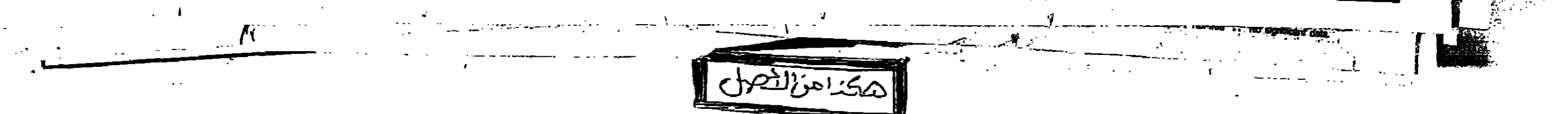
Not all the photographs are of players. Some are historic. One of the earliest is of Grace with two Scots, Jimmy Carruthers and James Telford, respectively winner and runner-up in the first English Bowling Association singles final in 1903, a match the great document, and the last in the book comes from the Imperial War Museum — RAF pilots having a game of bowls beside their aircraft, carrying on the Drake tradition.

Making waves: East Germany's Heike Friedrich provided the high point of the second day of the national championships in East Berlin with a world record-breaking 200 metres freestyle performance. Miss Friedrich, aged 16, clocked 1min 57.55sec to break the mark of 1:57.75 set by her national team-mate, Kristin Otto, in Magdeburg on May 23, 1984. "I was out for a time of 1:58, but I never expected quite such a good swim," she said afterwards.

ENTERTAINMENTS

- ART GALLERIES: WASHINGTON GALLERY 121, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200. GALLERY 121, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200. GALLERY 121, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200.

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SPORT

England's labours get their reward

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

HEADINGLEY: India have scored 235 for eight against England.

On a day of typically Headingley cricket, India scored 235 for eight when the second Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, began there yesterday. Shortly before tea they were 160 for three, but batting was becoming harder as the day went on so that India's evening decline was no great surprise. If it is anything like as cloudy today as it was after tea yesterday India's bowlers will be as well pleased as England's were.

Although Embury turned the ball during the eight overs he bowled during the morning, Gating decided from lunchtime onwards to put his faith almost exclusively in his faster bowlers. I was not alone, I am sure, in wondering at the wisdom of this, but it worked out for him in the end.

Gating had been left without Gower, who ruled himself out after having a net before the start, and for some time India had looked too much like making 350 or more for England's comfort. But 40 minutes after tea Lever, the old war-horse, came up with two vital wickets in successive balls — those of Vengsarkar when well set and the dangerous Kapil Dev. Gating needed that. To have had only four, perhaps five, wickets to show for the day's labours would not have been enough.

Gower is one of five members of the England side which

Scoreboard

INDIA: First innings	
S M Grewar	c Pringle b Pringle 35
K Srinivasan	c Embury b Pringle 31
A J Ghosh	c Pringle b Embury 28
D B Vengsarkar	c Pringle b Lever 28
M Ashrafuddin	b Gooch 15
Ravi Shastri	b Embury 12
C S Pandit	c Embury b Pringle 9
N H Dhot	c Pringle b Embury 5
Edman	lbw c Embury 4
N S More	not out 4
Extras	(lb 5, nb 4) 9
Total	(8 wickets) 235

Mandir Singh to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-75, 3-128, 4-163, 5-205, 6-232, 7-271, 8-273.
BOWLING: Diley 19-7-40-1; Lever 28-4-88-2; Pringle 23-5-60-3; Embury 17-4-65-1; Gooch 6-19-1.

ENGLAND: G A Gooch, W N Slack, C I Smith, W G Gating, A J Lamb, C W J Athey, D R Pringle, J E Embury, W R French, G R Diley, J K Lever.
Umpires: J Birkenshaw and D J Constant.

lost at Lord's not to be playing here. The others are Robinson, Downton, Edmonds and Ellison. Of those who replaced them, French is the one new cap. From out of the hat, India produced Madan Lal from Ashton-under-Lyne, where he plays as their professional in the Central Lancashire League, and Delhi.

An underrated all-round cricketer, now 35, Madan Lal last played in a Test match in October, 1984. I doubt whether Prabhakar, a member of the official Indian touring party now deprived of a game, will have thought much of Madan's selection. Another member of India's side at Lord's, Amarnath, was also unfit, his place being taken by Pandit.

It was the sort of toss captains are happy to lose: it looked a nice morning for bowling, but not a bad one for batting. In the event, the ball

moved about less than England must have hoped. After four overs, India were 26 for no wicket. Lever's two having cost 18 runs, eight of them to the unrepentant third man boundary.

Gating, I know, had been urged by Peter May to have a third man from the start, as he would have been by Alec Bedser when he was chairman of selectors. But Lever should know by now what he needs in any given conditions, and all he wanted to start with behind the wicket on the off side were a couple of slips. When Lever came off after 70 minutes, his figures were 8-1-38-0, Diley having beaten the bat a lot more often.

But it is seldom that a session passes at Headingley without wickets falling, as two did now in the 40 minutes before lunch. In the twentieth over, Pringle's fourth, Srikanth was caught at mid-on, driving without due care and attention, and at 75, in his sixth, Pringle drew Gavaskar into error. As at Lord's, Gavaskar was disgusted with himself for being out speculating outside the off-stump. It would not have escaped Pringle's attention, I am sure, that that is a better place to bowl than on an Indian's legs.

By lunch, taken at 92 for two, Shastri had been dropped by a bearded Yorkshire member in dark glasses at long-on, when he drove Embury for six. It was a good morning's cricket, with more anxious moments for England than India. The afternoon became

more attritional. The sun came and went as Gating shuffled his faster bowlers around.

At 128, Shastri was caught at first slip off Diley, a well-deserved wicket. At 163, Azharuddin, pushing most of the way forward to Gooch, was leg-before. Jack Birkenshaw, standing in his first Test match in his fifth season on the umpire's list, gave the decision. He has it in common with Athey that he is a Yorkshire exile returning home. Shastri had shown his versatility by playing most competently at No. 3 in the absence of Amarnath, and, until he was out, Azharuddin had batted for an hour with easy elegance.

At 200 for four, India were still having the better of the day. Vengsarkar was past his 50, playing no less well than he did at Lord's, and Pandit, in his first Test match, was becoming perkily confident. They had added 50 and England were badly in need of another wicket when Lever, bowling over the wicket, slanted one across Vengsarkar to have him caught at the wicket and brought the next ball back into Kapil Dev to win a leg-before decision from umpire Constant. India's captain showed some surprise.

That was at 203. At 211 Pandit edged Pringle straight to Embury at first slip. At 213 Slack fell forward at forward short leg to scoop up Binny's defensive prod off Embury, who had come back briefly to give Lever a rest.



Twist and shout: Azharuddin, India's prodigious young batsman, is leg-before to Gooch during the first day of the second Test at Headingley yesterday

A team that is without a flaw

DAVID MILLER

The World Cup, after its target first round, is becoming more exciting by the day: the only disadvantage of which is that people may come to believe that Dr Havelange is responsible. With Italy, the Soviet Union and Denmark, three of the five or six teams against whom the "new" England would, I believe, have had a hard time, no longer around, there is at least the possibility that England can reach the final.

It is, and I have said this previously, an average World Cup, which is not to detract from England's achievement in having woken up, almost by accident, after two matches, and having turned the fourth to handsome advantage after a nearly woeful start. As the local English-language newspaper headline had it after the Polish victory: "Coma Baby Lives."

There is, however, nothing comatose about the threat which Lineker and Bardsley pose to any team. "Don't you think they're worried about Lineker?" Bobby Robson asked when discussing how England might deal with Maradona on Sunday.

Goalkeeper who is worth a goal

With a goalkeeper worth a goal in any match, as Shilton certainly was on Wednesday, and two lively attackers, England have the ability to advance if they can find a means to check Maradona. Some task.

They did, if you reflect, halt Eusebio in the 1966 semi-final, and that was done by having Styles shadow him in midfield and force him wide, and having Moore pick him up if he got past Styles. The secret was not to tackle him, but to try to oblige him to get rid of the ball, and it will be the same against Maradona. Attempting to tackle the Argentinian is like trying to catch a wet bar of soap in a shower. Instead, hold off.

As Hoddle says: "To try and mark him means altering your own system of play, so it's better not to." I feel sure that this is what Dave Sexton, who has twice seen Argentina, will be advising Bobby Robson. England have no player who can hope to mark Maradona man-for-man. Bardsley, Uruguay's captain, who was one of the best defensive midfield players in the competition, tried and was overrun.

It will be interesting to see what tactics Carlos Bilardo, Argentina's manager, will use. Most of the important matches so far have been decided in midfield and, Maradona's influence apart, Argentina will beat England if they overrun the midfield quarter either side of the halfway line. This is what Spain did to Denmark and although that match probably turned on the absurdly overworked and presented by Jesper Olsen, Denmark's fizz had lost its bite.

If Argentina allow England to attack them, they could lose; but they do not play Uruguay's waiting game. Considering all three departments of the team, Argentina are probably the most complete we have seen. All the others have or have had at least one shortcoming. I have not seen an obvious one in Argentina.

Manager guilty of indecision

One of England's shortcomings is the continuing indecision of the manager, which seems a harsh judgement when the team have scored six goals in two matches. It was evident that Reid was in difficulty with an injury after 10 minutes against Paraguay, yet the manager did not replace him with Stevens, of Tottenham, until well into the second half after the second goal, which was risky.

The reason, it is said, is that Reid wanted to stay on the field. That is a dangerous precedent: the manager has to manage.

It is not widely known that Bryan Robson's £1 million contract over seven years with a boot manufacturer is partially conditional upon his continuing international selection. Did this explain his misguided insistence that he be wished to play at the start of the tournament? In turn, was the manager influenced by the player's apparent enthusiasm?

The manager now has to decide what to do about his centre backs, with Fenwick free from suspension. Fenwick's malign habits could inflame Argentina. He is not really the answer. This could be to use Stevens, of Tottenham, if Reid insists. Mobility is important.

Stuart Jones, page 28

ATHLETICS

Young bloods can make Games selection tough

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The long and the short of the AAA championship programme tonight, the 10,000m and 100m, promise some fascinating and spectacular competition and entertainment. There will also be some weeping and gnashing of teeth, for these 96th championships — allowing for the 10 wartime cancellations since 1880 — sponsored this year by Kodak are also the final trials for the majority of the England Commonwealth Games team, which will be selected on Sunday and announced on Monday.

Linford Christie has his first run in Britain since surprising the world and himself — "when I saw the clock I thought it must have stopped when I was halfway down the track" — in Madrid two weeks ago when he broke Allan Wells's six-year-old United Kingdom 100m record with 10.04sec.

There will be much interest in how John Dinan and Chris Perry, the Australian ex-pro-

fessional sprinters, fare against Christie. But the long trip from the other side of the world last weekend will not have left them in the best condition for sprinting, and Christie will probably be measured more by his competitors, Lincoln Asquith, Mike McFarlane, Donovan Reid, John Regis, Daley Thompson and Ernie Obeng, the Ghanaian who has qualified this year to compete for England.

The 10,000m provides the fascination of a contest between the experience of Olympic and Commonwealth medal winners, Mike McLeod and Nick Rose, with Barry Smith against the exuberant challenge of youngsters, Paul Davies-Hale, Steve Harris and Jon Solley. The three men in their early 20s are all tremendous road runners over this distance, having beaten some of the world's best in the last year. But the track is very different, as Harris has recently discovered with only medi-

ocre times at 5,000/10,000m to his credit. This will be the 10km for Davies-Hale and Solley. If these three can provide a fast early pace, they could well lose the attentions of the older men.

Wells, incidentally, is due to race in Madrid this evening in his final attempt to run a race, which the Scottish selectors will consider worthy enough for the inclusion of the veteran sprinter in their Commonwealth Games team in Wells's native Edinburgh. Said Aouita, the Moroccan Olympic 5,000m champion, is also due to run in Madrid, in what is being billed as an attempt on his 1,500m world record, which he captured from Steve Cram late last season.

Cram runs the 800m heats at Crystal Palace this evening in his attempt to win selection at both that distance and the 1,500m for Edinburgh. Sebastian Coe, on the basis of his 45.66sec in Madrid two weeks ago, has already been pencilled in the England team, so Cram's principal opponents will be Peter Elliott and Cram's own training partner, David Sharpe.

One of the best contests of the weekend will be the meeting between John Ridgeon and Colin Jackson, first and second in the European junior 110m hurdles last year. They have both started this season in superb form, Jackson clocking 13.50sec in the Welsh championships last weekend, and Ridgeon 13.66 in the United States last month.

JUDO

Controversial decision from Scotland

By Philip Nickson

Just two weeks before the close of entries for the judo tournament in the Commonwealth Games, a late and controversial decision has been taken by the Scottish organizing committee to invite two competitors in each weight category instead of one. The decision followed requests by Australia and New Zealand, and concern that despite participation of at least 17 countries, some of the weight categories are likely to be under-subscribed.

"The main reason is that because judo is a demonstration sport this year, although it is on the official programme in 1990, national federations are having to pay the expenses of their players themselves," Colin McIver, manager of the Scottish team, said.

"But we want to ensure that July 28 will see a good demonstration of judo — especially since all the seats in the Meadowbank Stadium have been sold. However, some countries may object to the move on the grounds that it automatically favours the chances of the Home Countries."

BOXING

The king settles in at the Palace

From Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent
Las Vegas

Barry McGuigan having broken camp in Palm Springs, where he has been doing his serious training for the defence of his World Boxing Association featherweight title against Steve Cruz, of the United States, on Monday, has set up headquarters at Caesars Palace here, where he will put the finishing touches to his preparations.

Being totally dependent for my knowledge of Roman history on the likes of Cecil B de Mille, I cannot say if any other Irish gladiators have ever taken over a Caesars Palace, but in a suite where the centrepiece was an oval bed that could hold 10 McGuigans, and draped with yards and yards of sheer nylon that fell in a peach shower from white Corinthian pillars, the champion looked very much at home.

This will be a welcome relief to his followers, who will have heard reports that he was unhappy at Palm Springs, what with rumours of a rift with his manager, B J Eastwood, bouts of homesickness and an ankle injury. All that is behind him now.

He has signed a three-year contract with Eastwood and his family are with him, although they have still to arrive here from Palm Springs.

Cruz, though a late substitute for the original opponent, Fernando Sosa, of Argentina, who cut an eye in training, has been hand-picked by McGuigan after he saw the Texan in action in his last two contests against Tommy Cordova and Rocky Garcia, his last opponent.

On the face of it, the contest should not go beyond six rounds, but being a perfectionist, McGuigan is a warrior and he has been concerned about being 1lb lower than his fighting weight of 126lb over a week ago. It will be remembered that before he boxed Juan Laporte he was having sleepless nights: at one point he rang up Eastwood and had to go over and take him for a midnight walk.

McGuigan spent similar sleepless nights before meeting Eusebio Pedrosa for the world title and Danilo Cabrera in Dublin. It has taken all the guide of his trainer, Eddie Shaw, to allay his fears. Shaw has been fixing the scales so that every time he steps on them they show 126lb.

Cruz, a plumber by trade, was mending a pipe in a sewer when he was told that he had been given his big chance. He has never earned more than \$4,000 and he will be getting \$70,000 for this contest. It will help him get a place for himself and his wife of three months, Anna, who is 15 years old and still at school in the tenth grade. "I can take her wherever she wants to go for the honeymoon," he said. She wants to go to Disneyland.

TENNIS

Knees-up for White as she joins Eastbourne elite

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Three of Wimbledon's seven upper seeds will appear in today's singles semi-finals of the Pilkington Glass championships at Eastbourne. They will be joined by Robin White, a fair-haired, fun-loving Californian with pale green eyes and a dark brown voice. Miss White has beaten Hana Mandlikova and Gabriela Sabatini in consecutive matches.

The pairings will be Martina Navratilova v Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and Helena Sukova v Miss White, aged 22, who was last seen heading for the golf course. Miss White needed a break. She had been playing and winning more tennis matches than she usually does at this level. In any case, she explained, hitting a ball and walking was easier than hitting a ball and running.

Miss White's knees needed a break, too. She has had operations on both and they get sore. One was damaged while she was skiing, the other while she was playing basketball. She has given up skiing but still "messes around" at basketball, which at 5ft 4in tends to be interesting. "I'm too short," she said. "I get beat up — elbowed in the head and stuff like that."

There is a graceful languor

about Miss Sabatini. Miss White ignored the grace and worked on the languor — with drop shots or short, clipped returns. "She's not all that quick," Miss White said, "and she likes the ball at waist level, not short and low. When she serves short, you have to use the drop and surprise her."

Miss Sabatini had two set points in the second set but was beaten 6-3, 7-5. Deficient in the energy and punch grass courts demand, she always seemed to be one gear below top. Often, too, Miss Sabatini hit short and went to the net without reasonable cause for anything except apprehension. She was tired, she said, after a hard match the previous day. Miss Sabatini is only 16 years old, so one assumes the tiredness was mental.

Whatever messages her knees were sending her, Miss White never looked tired. She was always brisk and business-like. She confessed, however, that her dog-legged return to the baseline after changeovers

(she studiously walks outside the tramlines and baseline) was a superstitious ritual. "But once I heard the umpire say '15 seconds' so I had to walk across the court."

Her next opponent, Miss Sukova, had four break points against her in the first game but then won 19 points out of 22, which left Larissa Savchenko with too much to do.

Etsuko Inoue gave Miss Navratilova some useful match practice in preparation for Miss Kohde-Kilsch: a clash that could be a rehearsal for a Wimbledon semi-final. Zina Garrison, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals last year, was serving at 4-2 in her second set with Miss Kohde-Kilsch, but the leaning tower of Saarbrucken would not let her go any further.

But the star of this show — other than Devonshire Park itself, basking beautifully in the bright heat of summer — was the underdog suddenly in the spotlight. Miss White can hardly believe that life is being so good to her.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Fitness for Connors

Jimmy Connors, who has contended with a strained groin muscle since he retired from the Stella Artois tennis tournament final on Sunday, is expected to pass his Wimbledon fitness test. Connors, aged 33, sustained the injury last Saturday in his semi-final against Robert Seguso, whom he will face in the first round at Wimbledon on Monday.

Cohen's chance

The next signing for Rangers could be Avi Cohen, captain of the Israeli international football side. Cohen, aged 30 and a defender, was a team-mate of the Rangers' manager, Graeme Souness, during his Liverpool career. Cohen is the captain of the leading Israeli division club, Maccabi. Rangers say they have had talks with the player.

Three cheers

Three members of Britain's 1985 European pony showjumping gold-medal-winning team have been selected to defend the title in San Remo, Italy, from July 3-6. They are Vicki Letherbarrow, from Warwickshire, who won the individual title, Camille Crow, of Salop, and John Renwick, of Essex. The two others are Emma Lynch, of Coventry and Alexandra Newsham, of Cheshire.

Australia rally

Great Britain led Australia 2-1 in the Third Westwood International Croquet Test match against Australia at Budeleigh Salterton on Wednesday. Yesterday the Australians started to fight back. Alan Cleland won a tight game against Mark Avery by +3. He lost the second +26 TP. The teams were then even. David Openshaw, the Great Britain captain, came from behind to take the first game against Barrie Chambers by +4. In the third match Steve Mulliner, of Great Britain, had two balls on the peg, while Damon Bidecovepe was on first and four-back. Mulliner requested Bidecovepe's touching balls and inexplicably played a canon in which he sent the croquetted ball spinning off. He lost the game by 2.

Fox challenge

Richard Fox, the world canoe champion, heads a 13-strong British team in the Slalom Europa Cup in Mezzana, Italy, on June 28-29 and in Seo-de-Urgel, Spain, the following weekend. Fox, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours last week, will be supported by the British champions, Jimmy Jayes, Liz Sharnan, Martyn Hodges and the partnership of Chris Arrowsmith and Paul Brain.

Solid backing

Prudential Insurance have provided more than £50,000 for the European water skiing championships, which will be held in Lincolnshire from July 30 to August 3.

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